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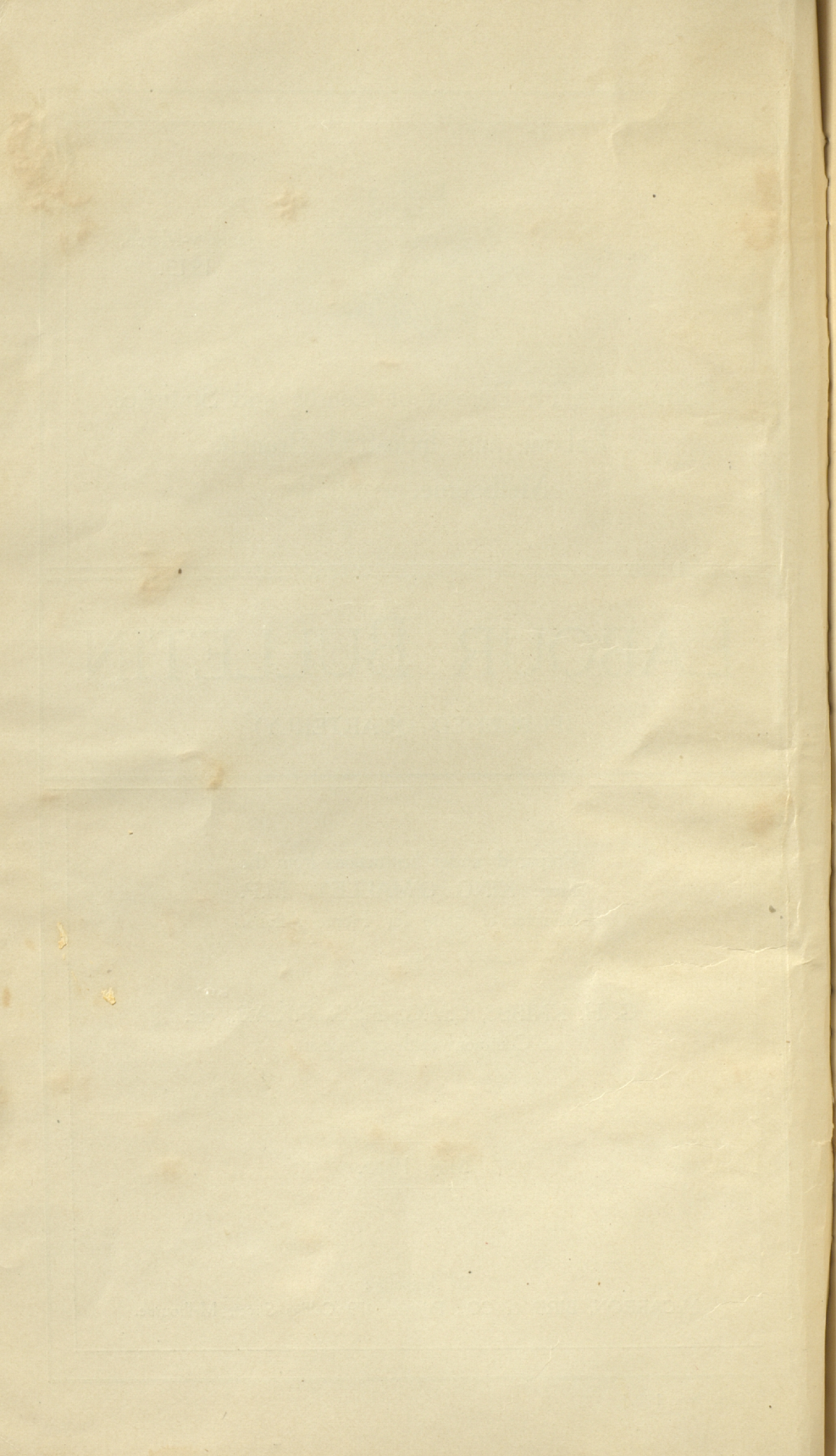
Prepared under Instructions from the
Hon. KING O'MALLEY, M.P.
Minister of State for Home Affairs.

By

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PREFACE.

The work of collecting what are commonly known as Labour and Industrial Statistics was first undertaken by this Bureau in the year 1912. Before any adequate results could be obtained a great amount of research and preliminary work had to be carried out and the methods and technique adopted in other countries to be examined. The first Report of the Labour and Industrial Branch—on Prices, Price-Indexes and Cost of Living in Australia—was published in December, 1912; the second on Trade Unions, Unemployment, Wages and Cost of Living—appeared in April, 1913. One of the main objects of these two Reports was to furnish information for past years as to various matters which will be dealt with in the periodical publications of the Branch, and to thus preserve the continuity of the returns.

While the regular collection of data as to prices and cost of living began in 1912, it was found impracticable to undertake the collection of of periodic returns as to all the main standard subjects of investigation until the year 1913. In this Bulletin, the first of the quarterly series, the Branch is therefore enabled to present statistics for the first quarter of the year 1913, together with summarised results for previous years in regard to several of the more important subjects of inquiry. The method of presentation and arrangement of Sections adopted in this Bulletin will be substantially preserved in future issues, and it is proposed to bring together each year the figures for the individual quarters and to embody the results in an Annual Report.

Though the presentation of the results for each State (and in some cases for individual towns) and the whole Commonwealth has to some extent complicated the nature of the tables given herein, it has been thought desirable to make the results available, so far as practicable, on a fully comparable basis for each State.

G. H. KNIBBS,

Commonwealth Statistician.

Melbourne, 12th May, 1913.

CORRIGENDA.

The following corrections should be made in Report No. 2, on "Trade Unionism, Unemployment, Wages, Prices and Cost of Living in Australia," published in April last:—

Page 13, in table, last figures in column year 1909, for "300,184" read "273,461," and for last figures, "1985," in paragraph following table, read "19,073."

Page 36, Plasterers' wages in Melbourne, for "78s. 0d. and 84s. 0d.," read "64s. 2d. and 74s. 8d."

Page 57, in table, for "1911," read "1912."

Page 63, delete asterisk and footnote *.

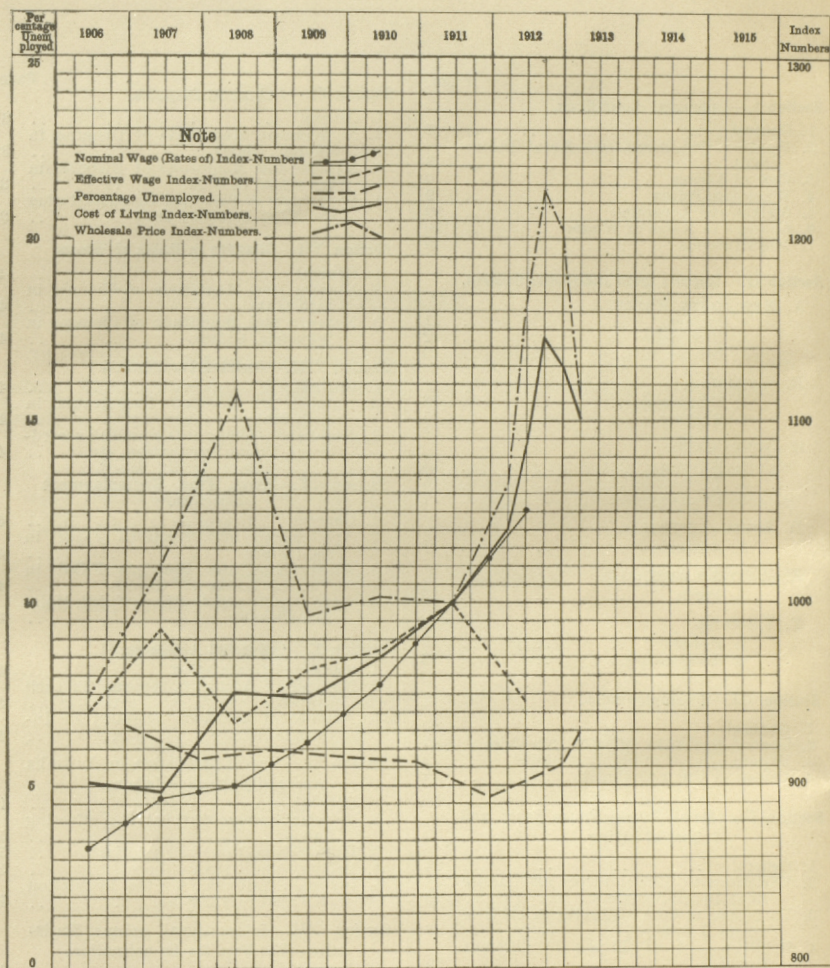
Page 64, in table, for "Feb. to Sept.," read "July to Sept."

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**Cost of Living, Wholesale Prices and Nominal and Effective Wage Index-Numbers
and Percentage of Unemployed.**



EXPLANATORY NOTE.—The scale on the left represents the scale for the percentage of persons unemployed according to trade union returns. The figures on the right represent the scale for the several index-numbers, the year 1911 being taken in each case as base (= 1000). Since the end of the year 1911 the index-numbers for cost of living (average for the six metropolitan towns), and for wholesale prices (Melbourne) are shown each quarter, while unemployment percentages are shown quarterly since the end of the year 1912 only. Unemployment figures for previous years are shown as at the end of each year, while other index-numbers refer to the average for the whole year. Nominal and effective wage index-numbers are only computed annually.

LABOUR BULLETIN.

No. 1.—JANUARY to MARCH, 1913.

SECTION I.—INDUSTRIAL CONDITIONS.

1. **General.**—Reports received from the various industrial centres indicate that there was some depression in several branches of industrial activity during the first quarter of the current year, but that the conditions and prospects improved towards the end of the quarter. In the early part of the year meetings of the unemployed were held in Sydney and Melbourne, but considerable difference of opinion existed as to the true state of affairs. The percentage of persons unemployed in the Commonwealth, according to returns received from Secretaries of Trade Unions, increased since the preceding quarter (October to December, 1912) from 5.5 to 6.4, the increase being most marked in the building, mining, timber and clothing industries. The increase occurred in all the States except Western Australia and Tasmania, where the percentage of unemployed showed a decrease.

While the returns and reports received indicate that there was in the aggregate some increase in the amount of unemployment, it is reported that many industries continued to be active throughout the quarter. In all the States the engineering trades are stated to have been generally active, as also were the furniture, printing, electrical and various other manufacturing industries. The demand for domestic servants is said to have been largely in excess of the supply, and, generally speaking, there was also a fairly good demand in several of the States for agricultural and general labourers, especially for experienced men. In several of the States the officers of the Government labour exchanges draw attention to the difficulty in procuring suitable men for work outside the metropolitan districts.

According to reports received from various sources, it appears that the chief causes alleged for the increase in unemployment in New South Wales were the decrease in the number of live-stock sent to the markets, which affected those engaged in occupations connected therewith, such as freezing works employees, meat packers, wool and basil workers, and the leather trades, the arrival of tradesmen from overseas, the stringency of the money market as a result of which building operations were restricted, the discharging by the Government of men who

NOTE.—The Labour Bulletin, in its accounts of proceedings, abstracts of reports, legal decisions, quotations and other matters of concern to labour, is not to be regarded as expressing an official endorsement of any of the views or opinions contained therein.

had been engaged in public works, and in the gold mining industry, the cessation of operations in the southern and south-eastern parts of the State owing to insufficient water supply during the early months of the year. In Victoria the causes alleged were the cessation of building operations, which indirectly affected both timber and iron workers, seasonal slackness in clothing trades, the arrival during the preceding year of assisted immigrants to meet the demand which then existed, and shortage of live stock. In Queensland the rainy weather is reported to have had an adverse effect on various trades in several districts. In Brisbane the building trades are reported to have been slack, though in the Townsville district, on the other hand, it is stated that there was a shortage in certain branches, especially of carpenters. The cyclonic weather adversely affected employment in the timber industry. Copper mining and railway construction work are reported to have been active. The meat works in the southern district began their season in January, while one of the northern works had already opened before the close of the quarter, thus giving employment to a large number of men in this industry.

In South Australia the general condition of the labour market is reported to have been fairly quiet, especially in the building trades. Conditions improved towards the latter part of the quarter, the general rains having had a beneficent effect. In Western Australia most industries are said to have been busy, though in this State again the building trades seem to have been quiet, while a number of general labourers are reported to have been out of work.

2. Weather Conditions and Rural Industries.—During the early part of the quarter dry conditions prevailed over the greater parts of the States of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania, and as this followed on a general scarcity of rainfall extending back to October last, the position was regarded as serious in many districts.

As a result of the dry weather grass suffered, especially in the north-west of New South Wales, where pastoralists began to seek agistment areas, and in the dairying districts of New South Wales and Gippsland, where milk returns fell and stock lost condition. Many of the orchards in New South Wales were also adversely affected by the sparse rainfall, and a large proportion of the citrus crop in that State is reported to have been lost. In Tasmania, however, the fruit crop is said to have been the largest on record. In January harvesting was completed in the south-eastern parts of the continent, the yields being generally regarded as satisfactory.

In February patchy rains fell in New South Wales and greatly improved existing conditions, especially in the Western Division and the North Coast and Hunter districts. In many parts, however, ploughing was suspended owing to the continued dry weather. In Victoria the harvest of the previous season had been gathered by February and the ploughing and seeding operations had not begun. Some good rains were experienced, but in Gippsland conditions were bad, the summer-rains being very scanty. In South Australia phenomenal rains were experienced, causing floods in the east central district

and lower Murray Valley. Conditions generally were, however, greatly improved by the rains, and ploughing was commenced. In Tasmania very light rainfall was registered, and the want of water seriously affected pasturage and also the milk supply. Harvesting was in full swing.

In March general rains fell over the whole of Victoria and Tasmania, the major portion of New South Wales, and parts of South Australia, and were regarded as entirely satisfactory by both graziers and farmers, being early enough to provide good growth of grass and herbage for winter feed and in time to soften the ground for ploughing. The rains are reported to have covered at least four-fifths of Australia's wheat belt and at the same time to have been distributed over a large and important section of the pastoral area. It is said that the autumn has not opened for many years under such happy auspices.

In Queensland good rains were generally experienced in February, torrential downpours being reported at a few places. Judging from reports from various districts, it appears that on the whole stock was in good condition, grasses abundant, and the rivers above their normal height. The feed for the winter is stated to have been assured, and crops (wheat, maize and sugar) promising. Good seasons are expected in all divisions of the State except in parts of the Darling Downs and South Coast districts, where it is reported that a drought was expected.

In Western Australia reports indicate that in the western and south-western districts dry summer conditions prevailed during the quarter. The rainfall in the tropics was much higher than usual, and it was also above the average over the Murchison and North Coolgardie fields. At the end of the quarter stock is reported to have been fairly good in the coastal districts, but inland feed is scarce, the stock in several districts having to be hand fed. Farmers commenced to sow wheat and oat crops towards the end of the quarter.

3. Variations in Prices and Cost of Living.—The cost of living (retail prices and house rent) index-number for 30 of the more important towns in the Commonwealth fell from 1027 in the last quarter of the year 1912 to 998 in the quarter under review, compared with 1000 for the whole of the year 1912. In view of the fact that cost of living was still considerably higher (except in Queensland) than in the corresponding quarter of last year, when the index-number stood at 947, it appears, so far as can be judged from present indications, that the decline in the first quarter of the current year was due almost entirely to the seasonal fall in price of meat and certain agricultural produce, such as potatoes, onions, flour, butter, and cheese. Other dairy produce and house-rents rose. As regards the six capital towns only, the amount necessary on the average to purchase what would have cost £1 in 1911 was £1 2s. in the first quarter of the current year, compared with £1 2s. 7d. in the quarter immediately preceding, and £1 0s. 9d. in the first quarter of 1912.

4. Wholesale Prices.—Wholesale prices also declined, the index-number for the quarter standing at 1112, compared with 1204 for the

quarter immediately preceding. It was, however, still considerably higher than in the corresponding quarter of last year, when it stood at 1065. During the quarter prices of metals, textiles and leather, and building materials rose, while agricultural and dairy produce, groceries, meat and chemicals fell.

5. Industrial Disputes.—The total number of disputes which began during the quarter under review was 39, and of that number 25 occurred in New South Wales. At the end of the year 1912 there were four disputes in existence, all of which terminated in the first quarter of 1913. In the new disputes 11,783 persons were directly, and 1451 indirectly, involved, giving a total of 13,234. The total number of working days lost in both new and old disputes was 125,521, and the estimated loss in wages £55,887. The principal disputes occurring during the quarter were the gas-workers' and ferry boat employees' strikes in Sydney and the strike of miners on the South Coast coal-fields of New South Wales. A considerable number of minor disputes occurred on the northern coal-fields.

6. Changes in Rates of Wages.—The number of changes reported during the quarter and for which particulars are available is 49, of which 25 occurred in New South Wales and 12 in Victoria. The total number of persons affected is 33,504, and the aggregate amount of increase in wages per week is £8394. The largest number of persons affected in any single industrial group was in the building trades, in which 7070 persons obtained increases aggregating £2139 per week. No changes resulting in decreases in rates of wages were reported during the quarter.

7. Miscellaneous.—During the quarter 11,520 assisted and nominated immigrants, comprising 6950 dependents, arrived in the Commonwealth. The greatest number (4756) is reported from New South Wales. As regards occupations, of the males no less than 1388 are classified in the agricultural, pastoral, etc., group, and of the females 1062 are domestic servants, etc.

The six State free employment bureaux report that during the quarter 21,821 registrations were received from persons seeking employment. During the same period 9492 applications were received from employers and 7672 positions were filled.

The number of fatal accidents reported was 52 and of other accidents causing incapacitation from work for over 14 days was 1087. The industry in which most of these accidents occurred was the mining.

SECTION II.—REPORTS FROM INDUSTRIAL CENTRES*

A.—NEW SOUTH WALES.

1. **Sydney.**—The general condition of the labour market at the opening of the year is said to have been fair, the supply in most industries just about equalling the demand. It is reported that the market for unskilled labour during January was, however, overstocked, and that towards the end of the month there was a general slackening tendency in employment. In February several industries reported a considerable degree of unemployment, and a number of demonstrations of unemployed workers were held. Deputations were received by the State Premier, and representations were made that 4000 men were out of work in Sydney. Considerable difference of opinion existed, however, as to the true state of affairs, and inquiries being made through the trade unions at the instance of the Premier, it was ascertained that 1163 members of unions were reported as unemployed. It is alleged that the unemployment resulted mainly from the discharging of workers by the various Government Departments owing to the tightness of the money market. The conditions for clerks and shop assistants are reported to have been bad, many in each occupation being unable to secure employment. In March most trades reported some improvement in the conditions obtaining during the previous month, though the industrial disturbances had an adverse effect on the activity of certain industries. It was stated that employment continued to be slack in the building trades, but that this was not due to any abatement in the demand for housing accommodation, but to the inability of builders and others to obtain advances from the banks. In January the clothing and allied trades reported the usual after-Christmas slackness, and later in the quarter other manufacturing industries reflected the prevailing quietness. No difficulty was experienced by employers in securing all the labour they required.

Several conferences of importance in the industrial world were held during the quarter. On the 6th January the first meeting of a conference to draw up a scheme for the amalgamation of the whole of the "bush" unions took place. The conference was concluded on the 6th February, and a scheme was endorsed for the amalgamation of the Australian Workers' Union, the Amalgamated Workers' Association (Queensland), the Australian Carriers' Union, the Rural Workers' Union, and the Rabbit Trappers' Union. It is estimated that the new organisation will embrace about 100,000 members. The Railway Workers' Union, the General Labourers' Association, and the United Labourers' Protective Society also decided to amalgamate into one body.

The adjourned session of the Trades Union Congress was held during Easter week for the purpose of considering the report of the Executive on a scheme of federation of all unions in the State. With a few amendments the scheme was agreed to, and is being submitted to

* Compiled from revised reports of agents and correspondents supplemented by other sources of information. See also Note at foot of page 7.

the unions for their endorsement. The Sydney Labour Council was invited to co-operate, but was of opinion that the federation could be best accomplished by an extension of its own functions. The Council is accordingly revising its Rules in the direction of establishing a second State federation of unions, and it is stated that the near future must see a certain amount of friction between the two rival bodies.

The decision of Mr. Justice Heydon on the 27th February to the effect that the Industrial Court has no power to vary an industrial agreement registered under the Industrial Arbitration Act, 1912, as it has in the case of an award of an industrial board, is reported to have created a certain amount of consternation, as many unions are working under such agreements. They now find themselves at a disadvantage as compared with unions working under an award.

The months of January and February were free from industrial disputes of a serious nature until the last day of the latter month, when the employees of the three metropolitan gas-works went out on strike for an extra shilling per day. The union had previously made an application to the Industrial Court for a variation of their agreement, but the decision of the Judge, referred to above, prevented this from being done. About 300 men were affected directly, and a large number are reported to have been involuntarily thrown out of work. The strike ended on the 7th March, through the intervention of the Premier. On the 21st April the employees on the Sydney ferry boats ceased work, demanding a reduction of working hours to 48 per week. About 400 men were involved. Certain conditions for an award having been laid down between the parties, the matter was then left to the Board for the industry, and work was resumed on the 26th instant.

2. Newcastle.—The general condition of the labour market as regards unskilled workers was reported to be quiet, owing mainly, it is alleged, to the Government having discharged a number of men who had been employed upon sewer works, and to the prevailing unrest amongst the miners. Most branches of skilled labour are, however, stated to have been active, especially in the building trades. Several old buildings have recently been demolished to make room for more up-to-date establishments, and a number of men have been put on to work on the foundations for the steel works which are to be erected at Hamilton, in which place it is reported that proposals are on foot for the establishment of a woollen goods factory.

During the quarter the activity of the coal mining industry continued to be affected by a number of strikes. The matters in dispute are mainly concerned with four burning questions, viz.:—The question of the afternoon shift, the small coal question, wheelers' grievances, and the method of fixing the declared selling price of coal. No less than 14 disputes causing stoppage of work occurred during the quarter, their duration ranging from one shift to 33 days. The sittings of the Joint Conciliation Committee, constituted for the Northern Colliery District under the Act of 1912, came to an end in January last by the withdrawal of the colliery proprietors' representatives, and since that time has remained in abeyance. The Minister for Labour has proposed that

an additional Judge of the Industrial Court, vested with statutory powers of conciliation, should be appointed to confine his attention to the northern coal-fields. Certain of the lodges of the coal-miners' union have shewn themselves inclined to accept this proposal, and have secured a reference of the question whether, in the opinion of the employees generally, such a court will meet the requirements of the industry, to a ballot of all the members of their federation. In the meantime attempts to reconstruct the Joint Conciliation Committee have met with modified success, in so far as a committee has been sitting to settle matters in dispute at the Abermain Colliery.

3. Broken Hill.—The general conditions of the labour market were reported to have been fairly active during the quarter, the output from the mines being normal. About 350 men were engaged in the construction of the water supply works at Umberumberka. The town has already experienced two water famines, and the new scheme is being carried out by the Government. It is expected that the retaining wall will be completed in July next, while the construction of the pumping station and the laying of the pipe line are also proceeding satisfactorily. The building trade is reported to be active, a new infant school being under construction by the Government, and several new residences being in course of erection. Eleven fatal, and several other, mining accidents occurred during the quarter.

In February several of the unions affiliated with the Barrier Labour Federation took up the question of non-unionists, and it is stated that towards the end of that month the officers of the Federation sent a request to all affiliated unions that they should ask their members by referendum if they were willing to refuse to work with non-unionists after the 31st March. A special meeting of the Federation was held on the 28th March, and it was reported that only 20 out of nearly 9000 unionists voted in favour of working with non-unionists. It is also reported that resolutions were carried that cards be printed and given to each unionist, who is to be prepared to show the card when called upon, and that unionists refuse to work with persons failing to produce a card. This movement culminated in the strike of the Silverton Tramway employees on the 1st April against the employment by the company of certain non-unionists. This strike did not, however, occur within the quarter under review, and will be referred to further in the next issue of this Bulletin.

B.—VICTORIA.

1. Melbourne.—Labour conditions generally, as regards employment in many industries, were on the slack side during the quarter, an increase in the number unemployed being reported, especially in the building trades and among general labourers. It is reported that in the early part of the year many workers who went to the country to do harvesting work returned to the city, and that there was a surfeit of unskilled workers unable to obtain employment. The labour market showed some signs of improvement towards the latter part of the quarter,

the general rains having a beneficent effect on the trade prospects. Several mass meetings of the unemployed were held in February, and the Trades Hall Council took action in regard to the matter. Deputations waited on various public bodies, Ministers (both Federal and State), and Departmental officers with a view to having all public works put in hand as early as possible, so as to relieve the labour market. Their efforts in this direction are stated to have been fairly successful. A considerable amount of the slackness, especially in the building trade, was said to be due to the stringency of the money market, and it is alleged that it is also due in part to the introduction of an excessive number of immigrants, who were brought out to cope with the industrial activity which prevailed in 1912. The demand for certain classes of labour, especially for agricultural workers and domestic servants, is still considerably in excess of the supply. It is stated that a number of unemployed have refused work offered in the country through the State Labour Bureau. In the agricultural implement trade, also, an impetus has been given to employment principally owing to a large order having been received from South America.

During the quarter Melbourne was singularly free from industrial disputes. The dispute in the cement industry at Burnley, which was in progress at the beginning of the new year, and which affected about 60 men, was eventually settled on the 19th February. The members of the Independent Workers' Union who had been taken on by the proprietor were paid off, and those of the United Labourers' Union were reinstated, after a spell of over seven months, at a minimum wage of eight shillings per day. The only other strike in the district during the quarter in question was that of the slaters and tilers, through which about 80 men were out of work for a fortnight.

The State Government has appointed a conference to consider the apprenticeship question, especially in regard to the proportion of apprentices that should be allowed in the various trades, and the methods of tuition to ensure that the apprentices shall become competent workmen. The members of the conference have been appointed and consist of representatives from the Ministerial party and the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly, the Trades Hall Council, the Employers' Federation, and the Chamber of Manufacturers.

A considerable amount of discussion was caused by the determination of the commercial clerks wages board and by its subsequent amendment by the Industrial Court. The award of the board, which, so far as rates of pay are concerned, was based upon the casting vote of the chairman, provided for a minimum wage for both sexes alike of 48 shillings per week of 48 hours for adult commercial clerks, and fixed the rate for other clerks at 48 shillings per week of 42½ hours, and for typists, stenographers, etc., at 45 shillings per week of 48 hours, with special rates for apprentices or improvers (males and females alike) up to the sixth year of experience. Exception was taken to the alleged ambiguous nature of the principle of "equal pay for equal work" upon which this determination, giving the same rates to males and females, was based, and on reference by the Minister for Labour to the Court of Industrial Appeals, the Judge adhered to the minimum rate of 48

shillings for males, but awarded a rate of 32 shillings per week of 48 hours for females, with similar differentiation between rates for male and female apprentices.

A new union of Horseshoe Makers is reported as having been formed in January, and the amalgamation of the Storemen's and Packers' and the Wool and Skin Store Employees' Unions resulted in the organisation of another large Commonwealth federation.

2. **Geelong.**—Though labour conditions are reported to have been active and employment plentiful at the beginning of the year, it is stated that there was a slackening in the demand for labour towards the end of January and in February, with some slight improvement towards the end of the quarter. In January the demand for farm labour was active, the weather being suitable for harvesting operations, and the crop being well up to the average. In February the farmers were engaged in ploughing, and there was some demand for immigrant labour. The general rains towards the end of the quarter proved very beneficial, and the prospects for the coming season are said to be good. Geelong is the centre of the chaff and fodder trade for the Western District, and it is stated that business in that State was slack owing to the plentiful supply in New South Wales and Queensland. It is expected that conditions will improve as the winter comes on. The building trade is reported to have been very slack, a number of contracts having been completed in December, and but few new works in view. A large grammar school is to be erected, while the cement works are making additions both to buildings and plant. Employment was fairly plentiful in the early part of the quarter for waterside workers, wheat, chaff, fodder, flour, wool and timber being shipped in fair quantities; but there was a slackening in the demand later on in the quarter. In the manufacturing industries the cement and rope works and the woollen, paper, timber and flour mills were busy, and the work in connection with the establishment of woollen mills by the Commonwealth Government (for the supply of cloth, etc., for uniforms) is going ahead. In the fellmongering industry the busy season is over for a time. The Sewerage and Water Trust has let contracts totalling £35,000, and a number of additional hands are being put on to complete the work in the contract time.

No strikes or lockouts occurred in the district during the quarter. The most important change in rates of wages affecting workers in Geelong during the quarter was brought about by the determination of the Chaffcutters' Wages Board. This resulted in a general increase of five shillings a week, while the hours of carters in that trade were reduced from 58 to 52, with an increase of 4 shillings in wages per week.

C.—QUEENSLAND.

1. **Brisbane.**—During the month of January the general condition of the labour market is reported to have been fair, although employment in the building trade was restricted owing to the wet weather. During the last two months of the quarter conditions were not so favourable, and a slight general increase in unemployment was

reported, the trades principally affected being the building and clothing trades. The decline in the latter trade was partly due to the usual falling off after Christmas. In common with the other Eastern States, activity in the building trade diminished, owing, it is alleged, partly to the stringency of the money market, and also probably to the fact that the large demand which had existed for houses and cottages had to some extent been satisfied for the time being. It is stated that during the year 1912 about £400,000 was spent on new buildings, mostly in the city. It is reported that in the northern districts of the State the cyclonic weather in February adversely affected operations in the timber and mining industries, while in the southern districts the meat works were generally busy, though during the early part of the season work was interfered with through the bad state of the western stock routes consequent upon the continued rainfall.

Several conferences of unions were held at Brisbane during the quarter, the more important being those of the Australasian Meat Industry Employees' Union and the Federated Storemen and Packers' Union. At each of these conferences a federal log of wages was drafted with a view to application being made to the Commonwealth Arbitration Court. It is reported that at the conference between the Australian Workers' Union, the Amalgamated Workers' Association, and other large rural organisations, held in Sydney in January, it was decided that the scheme for amalgamation should come into force in Queensland forthwith, and that the jurisdiction for the branch in that State should extend to northern New South Wales, so far as necessary to include sugar workers.

The first sitting of the Industrial Court constituted under the Industrial Peace Act, 1912, was held in March, when proceedings were taken against the secretary of one of the waterside workers' unions for alleged incitement to strike. In the course of the case it was decided by the Judge that neither counsel nor solicitors could appear before the court on any occasion. The summons was eventually withdrawn on the suggestion of the judge.

2. Townsville.—During the early part of the quarter the state of the labour market in this district is reported to have been bad. It is said that a number of men were out of work, both in the mining centres and other districts, but that an improvement was expected with the opening of the sugar season and meat works in March or April. The heavy rains which fell off and on throughout the quarter are reported to have done a vast amount of good, and though some damage has been done to the sugar cane in the northern parts of the State, a record crop is anticipated for the coming season. Copper-mining was active, the late rains having enabled prospectors and miners to work among the hills at places that had been idle for a considerable time owing to lack of water. Several of the copper-mining companies have had good results in the way of outputs. It is reported that the Mount Oxide Company intend to carry out a large amount of developmental work. The Mount Elliott Company closed down the Mount Elliott smelters in March for three or four months to allow for the erection of plant and machinery at their Consols mine, which had caught fire

some time ago, and rendered it impossible for the company to keep up an adequate supply of ore for the smelters. The closing of the smelters is said to have thrown about 400 men out of work. Several gold shows in the vicinity of Ravenswood were worked during the quarter, and some of them are said to have netted good returns.

The building trade is reported to have been active in the district during the quarter, and the demand for carpenters could not in all cases be met. In consequence carpenters had to be secured from Brisbane for the erection of the buildings at the Ross River meat works. The Alligator Creek meat works started work towards the end of March, and gave employment to about 350 men.

A considerable amount of railway construction work is in progress, but it is reported that on the Government lines only a limited number of men are employed. The Government made a start with the line from Saltwater towards Mackay, about 50 men being engaged, while a large number of hands were employed on the Malbon to Wee McGregor railway construction works, and about twenty on the State line from Townsville to Ingham. The dispute in connection with the building of the Cloncurry to Mount Cuthbert railway has been settled temporarily by the Government letting five miles of construction to a contractor, who agreed to pay eleven shillings per day to his employees. About 100 men were engaged in this work at the end of the quarter. No disputes of a very serious nature occurred during the quarter.

3. **Bundaberg.**—The general condition of the labour market during the quarter is reported to have been quiet owing to the continued heavy rains, which interfered considerably with all out-of-door work. In the agricultural industry farmers and growers were busily engaged planting and cultivating, and a considerable number of men were engaged in weeding, ploughing and general cultivation work. It is stated, however, that there was a lot of lost time owing to the continued rainy weather. The sugar crop is stated to be remarkably healthy, and, given favourable conditions, a record crop is assured.

Mining is reported to have been very active, and fairly large outputs have been maintained at Mount Morgan and Mount Chalmers. It is said that the recent developmental work at Many Peaks has disclosed a large body of matrix ore, and that large consignments are being sent to the smelters. The building trades are also reported to have been very active, though work was considerably hampered by the wet weather.

On the various railway lines in the course of construction in the district comparatively few men are employed, owing, it is alleged, to the Government being short of money for that purpose. On the Mary Valley line there were about 120 men, on the Gayndah line about 130, on the Cordalba extension 100, and on the North Coast line about 100 men engaged. The work is being carried out by day labour. It is reported that an attempt is being made to get a new line constructed to open up the Burnett Valley lands. The Cordalba line is nearing completion. The Millaquin sugar refinery, the Bundaberg foundry, and the distilleries are all reported to have been working at high pressure during the quarter.

The annual conference of the Amalgamated Workers' Association of Queensland was held at Rockhampton in January. The conference affirmed the vote recently taken in favour of amalgamation with the Australian Workers' Union and other rural workers' unions. A new set of bye-laws was drawn up, and the policy for the coming year was approved.

D.—SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

1. **Adelaide.**—The general condition of the labour market during the quarter is reported to have been quiet, with some improvement in February and March. The whole of the building trades are stated to have experienced quiet times during January with the exception of plumbers and ironworkers, who were busy. It is said that, according to the statements of the employers, the slackness was caused by the want of good bricks, while it is alleged by others that the chief reason was the fact that the banks were not lending money. It is said that this action of the banks, while causing a certain amount of unemployment for a time, would eventually result in increased activity. In February and March some improvement is reported in the whole of the building trades.

The brick-making industry is stated to have been busy, the State Government having made contracts for the supply of some millions of bricks for large works which they have coming on in the near future.

In January there was not apparently any great demand for agricultural workers owing mainly to the dry season. The Superintendent of the Government Labour Exchanges reported that there was some demand for men for scrub clearing and for wattle stripping and eucalyptus leaf cutting, and that youths for farm work were in fairly good demand, but could not be obtained. Towards the end of the quarter the general rains improved the outlook for agricultural labour, and there was a fairly good demand for experienced farm hands, especially for men capable of driving teams at wages from 20 to 25 shillings a week and keep.

All branches of the engineering trade are stated to have been busy, and the Labour Exchange reported at times a strong demand for boilermakers. Agricultural implement makers are reported to have generally been dull in January, but fairly busy in all branches towards the end of the quarter. The market for unskilled labour was fair, most of the requirements having been met without difficulty. The Superintendent of the Labour Exchange reports, however, that in some cases great difficulty was experienced in obtaining suitable men for work outside the metropolis. Employment in railway works was fairly good, several lines being in course of construction for opening up country on the west coast and in the Pinaroo district. Tenders were called for the construction of a line to Willunga, which provided work for about 150 men.

Copper mining is stated to have shown increased activity during the quarter owing to the price of copper being on the up grade. It is said that it is proposed to close down the State mine at Moonta owing to the report that it is not of a payable character.

E.—WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

1. **Perth**—Reports from Western Australia are meagre, but it appears that generally speaking trade was good and industries active during the quarter, with the exception of the building trades, which were quiet. During the quarter the relations between the miners and the managers on the Kalgoorlie mines were somewhat strained. The existing minimum rate for surface work was ten shillings and for underground eleven shillings per shift, the men asking for an advance of 1s. 8d. on the surface and 1s. underground. The offer by the managers to advance the surface workers 6d. was refused, and notice was given terminating the agreements under which the men had been working for the past three years. After fruitless negotiations between the various unions and the Chamber of Mines, a compulsory conference was called under the Arbitration Act and the matter settled, the minimum wage for surface workers being fixed at 10s. 9d., and for underground workers at 11s. 2d. per shift.

F.—TASMANIA.

1. **Hobart**.—During the quarter employment is stated to have been fairly good in all classes of labour, though there was some slackening in the demand in March. The fruit and hop picking season was at its height during the early part of the quarter, but had nearly drawn to a close by the end of March. The jam workers were working overtime in January to cope with the quick arrival of fruit. Waterside workers are said to have been fully occupied, though some unemployment was reported in March. The building trades are also stated to have been active in January, but quiet in March, some bricklayers and labourers being reported as out of work in the latter month. The furniture, engineering and milling trades and plumbers and tin-smiths are all said to have been busy. Cabinet makers and French-polishers were in demand in January. Timber workers also continued to be busy throughout the quarter. It is reported that general labouring work was not plentiful in March.

No industrial disputes causing serious stoppage of work were reported during the quarter from any part of the State. Two disputes affecting waterside workers at Hobart were reported, but neither caused stoppage of work. One had reference to the unloading of casks of cement in slings, the other to the claims of the captains of two vessels to utilise the services of the crews in unloading consignments of Baltic timbers.

2. **Launceston**.—The general condition of the labour market is reported to have been quiet, especially in the building trades. The fruit industry provided work during the quarter for a considerable number of hands, both in picking and preserving. The crop is reported to have been a record one, and consequently to have given a good deal of employment to transport workers. A slackening in the work of tramway construction is said to have put a good number of

general labourers out of work towards the end of the quarter. The mining industry in the surrounding districts is reported to have been slack, though it is stated that there is a prospect of an early revival.

No industrial disputes were reported, the various agreements and awards, under which nearly all the organised trades are working, apparently giving general satisfaction.

SECTION III.—UNEMPLOYMENT.

1. **General.**—For the quarter ending 31st March, 1913, returns as to unemployment were received from 451 trade unions, having a membership of 237,216, or nearly 55 per cent. of the total membership of all unions in the Commonwealth. The number unemployed was 15,234, or 6.4 per cent., compared with 5.5 per cent. for the preceding quarter. It will be observed there has therefore been an increase of 0.9 in the percentage unemployed since the end of last year. Though the percentage for the current quarter is higher than any recorded by this Bureau since the year 1906 (when the percentage was 6.7), it should be clearly understood that the percentages available for previous years refer to the *end* of each year, the current year being the first for which returns are being collected each quarter. Direct comparisons with the results for previous years cannot therefore be made in the absence of more complete information as to seasonal variations in unemployment.

The following table shews the number of unions reporting, and their membership, and the number and percentage unemployed. The returns do not include persons out of work through strike or lock-out. It should be observed that the particulars as to number unemployed at the end of the year 1912, and in the first quarter of 1913, were collected on a somewhat different basis to that on which the figures for previous years were obtained. The returns for 1906 to 1911 inclusive, refer to the total number unemployed at the end of each year, whereas those for the two latter periods refer to the numbers who were out of work for any three days or more during a specified week.

Unemployment.—Number of Unions and Members Reporting, and Number and Percentage Unemployed, 1906 to 1913.*

Particulars.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.*
Number of Unions Reporting.								
Unions ..	47	51	68	84	109	160	464	451
Members ..	11,299	13,179	18,685	21,122	32,995	67,961	224,023	237,216
Unemployed.								
Number ..	753	757	1,117	1,223	1,857	3,171	12,441†	15,234†
Percentage ..	6.7	5.7	6.0	5.8	5.6	4.7	5.5†	6.4†

* Quarter ending 31st March. † Returns collected on different basis to previous years, see remarks above.

The significance of the figures may be better appreciated by reference to the graph on page 6 hereinbefore. The general trend of the graph shows a decline in unemployment from 1906 to 1911, the latter year having the lowest percentage recorded in the returns collected by this Bureau. The percentage increased from 4.7 per cent. in 1911, to 5.5 per cent. in 1912, and 6.4 in the current quarter.

As will appear below, the increase in the last quarter has occurred mainly in the building and timber and wood trades and in the mining industry, the States chiefly affected being New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland.

2. Unemployment in Different Industries.—The following table shews the percentages unemployed in several of the fourteen industrial groups*. It may be observed that for those industries in which unemployment is either unusually stable or, on the other hand, exceptionally casual, information as to unemployment cannot ordinarily be obtained from trade unions. Hence certain industries, such as railways, shipping, agricultural, pastoral, &c., and domestic, hotels, &c., are insufficiently represented in the returns. Particulars are not, therefore, shewn separately for these groups, such returns as are available being included in the last group, "Other and Miscellaneous."

**Unemployment in different Industries for the Quarter ending 31st March, 1913,
and comparison with preceding Quarter.**

INDUSTRIAL GROUP.	Number Reporting.		Unem- ployed.		Unem- ployed in pre- ceding Quarter.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage since preceding Quarter.
	Unions	Mem- bers.	Num- ber.	Per- cent- age.		
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	21	17,904	909	5.1	3.7	+1.4
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc	63	29,641	1,914	6.5	7.4	—0.9
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc.	59	21,859	1,699	7.7	7.3	+0.4
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc.	27	16,126	1,194	7.4	6.3	+1.1
V. Books, Printing, etc. ..	29	8,137	259	3.2	2.8	+0.4
VI. Other Manufacturing ..	70	21,307	1,248	5.9	6.9	—1.0
VII. Building	54	25,282	2,288	9.1	5.5	+3.6
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. ..	19	24,605	1,997	8.1	5.6	+2.5
X. Other Land Transport ..	13	13,719	294	2.1	1.1	+1.0
IX., XI., XII., XIII., and XIV. Other and Miscellaneous ..	96	58,636	3,432	5.8	4.8	+1.0
All Groups	451	237,216	15,234	6.4	5.5	+0.9

The above figures shew that, while the percentage unemployed has decreased since last quarter in two industrial groups, viz., II. (Engineering, &c.) and VI. (Other Manufacturing), it has increased in each of the other groups.

* For classification in Industrial Groups, see Report No. 2, page 6.

The increase since last quarter was greatest in Group VII. (Building), followed in the order named by Group VIII. (Mining, &c.), and Group I. (Wood, Furniture, &c.). In the building trades and also in wood, &c., factories, the increase of unemployment in Victoria and New South Wales accounts to a great extent for the increase in unemployment in those groups, while the increase in the percentage unemployed in the mining industry is reported to be mainly due to the cessation of operations in January and February in gold mines in New South Wales, as a result of insufficient water supply, owing to the dry season.

In the last Group (Other and Miscellaneous), the increased percentage is general throughout all the States, with the exception of Tasmania.

3. Unemployment in Different States for Quarter ending 31st March, 1913.—Of the 451 organisations reporting unemployment, the largest number (118 unions with 98,870 members) was in New South Wales, Victoria, with 117 organisations and a membership of 79,751, coming next. Since the industrial occupations of the people, as well as the extent to which the different industries are represented in the returns vary considerably in the several States, all comparisons that can be drawn between the results for the several States must suffer to some extent from the fact that such comparisons must be drawn not merely between the States, but also between different industries.

In the following table particulars are given for the current quarter as to the number and percentage unemployed and the increase or decrease since the preceding quarter in each State.

Unemployment in different States for Quarter ending 31st March, 1913, and comparison with preceding Quarter.

STATES, ETC.	QUARTER ENDING 31ST MARCH, 1913.				Per-centage unemployed in pre-ceeding Quarter, Dec., 1912	Increase + or De-crease (—) in per-centage since pre-ceeding Quarter.
	Number Reporting.		Unemployed.			
	Unions.	Members.	Number.	Per-centage.		
New South Wales	118	98,870	6,463	6.5	4.9	+ 1.6
Victoria ..	117	79,751	5,604	7.0	6.7	+ 0.3
Queensland ..	51	11,469	752	6.5	4.6	+ 1.9
South Australia	60	23,079	1,283	5.5	5.0	+ 0.5
Western Aust. ..	70	20,403	1,017	5.0	5.8	— 0.8
Tasmania ..	35	3,644	115	3.2	3.4	— 0.2
Commonwealth	451	237,216	15,234	6.4	5.5	+ 0.9

The above figures shew that the increase since the preceding quarter in the percentage unemployed is greatest in Queensland (1.9), followed by New South Wales (1.6), South Australia (0.5), and Victoria (0.3).

There is a decrease in the percentage in Western Australia (0.8), and in Tasmania (0.2).

The increase in New South Wales is fairly general in all Industries, but is most marked in Groups II. (Engineering, &c.), Group IV. (Clothing, &c.), Group VII. (Building), and Group VIII. (Mining, Quarrying, &c.). In Victoria the chief increases were in Groups I. (Wood, Furniture, &c.) and VII. (Building), while decreases occurred in Groups II. (Engineering, &c.), and Group VI. (other manufacturing). In Queensland the increase is fairly general in all industries, but is greatest in Group VI. (Other Manufacturing). In South Australia the increase is most marked in Groups I. (Wood, Furniture, &c.), V. (Books, Printing, &c.), VIII. (Mining, Quarrying, &c.), and X. (Other Land Transport).

The decrease in Western Australia occurred principally in Groups I. (Wood, Furniture, &c.), III. (Food, Drink, Tobacco, &c.), and VIII. (Mining, Quarrying, &c.), while the small decrease in Tasmania is general throughout most of the Industries.

4. Causes of Unemployment.—Particulars as to causes of unemployment, classified under three main heads, are available for the first quarter of the year 1913, for 433 unions, having a membership of 217,531. The following table shews that out of a total number of 13,406 out of work, 11,298 were unemployed through lack of work, 1679 through sickness and accident, and 429 through other causes (excluding persons on strike or locked out).

**Unemployment according to Causes for the various States and Commonwealth,
Quarter ending 31st March, 1913.**

Causes of Unemployment.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Commonwealth.		
							Number Unemployed.	Percentage Unemployed on total Membership.	Percentage Unemployed in each class on total number Unemployed.
Lack of Work ..	4,282	4,829	606	823	678	80	11,298	5.2	84.3
Sickness and Accident ..	629	527	96	178	233	16	1,679	0.8	12.5
Other ..	187	96	45	32	61	8	429	0.2	3.2
TOTAL ..	5,098	5,452	747	1,033	972	104	13,406	6.2	100.0

The principal cause of unemployment, as shewn in the above table, was "Lack of Work," 5.2 per cent. of the membership of the trade unions reporting, being unemployed for that reason. The next cause in order of importance was "Sickness and Accident," 0.8 per cent. of the members being unemployed for this reason, while 0.2 per cent. were out of work through other causes.

It will be observed that 84.3 per cent. of the total amount of unemployment was due to "Lack of Work," 12.5 per cent. to "Sickness and Accidents," and 3.2 per cent. to "Other Causes."

SECTION IV.—RETAIL PRICES, HOUSE RENT, AND COST OF LIVING.

1. **General.**—The first quarter of the year 1913 shewed a decrease in the cost of living since the last quarter of 1912, the weighted average index-number for the thirty towns for which particulars are collected falling from 1027 to 998. Since prices of many commodities are, however, ordinarily at their lowest at the beginning of the year, the decline—amounting to only about $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.—must be regarded as small. That the decline is due merely to seasonal influences and that the cost of living is still on the upward trend is evidenced by the fact that the index-number (998) for the first quarter of 1913 is considerably higher than that for the corresponding quarter of last year (947), and is very nearly as high as the average level (1000) for the whole of the latter year.* As will be seen below, however, these remarks do not apply to Queensland, where the cost of living is less than in the corresponding quarter of last year, or to Western Australia, where there has been no change compared with the corresponding quarter of 1912.

Particulars of the cost of living index-numbers in each State during the last quarter, compared with the quarter immediately preceding, and also with the corresponding quarter for the previous year, are shown in the following table. The figures relate to the average cost in five of the more important towns (see paragraph 3) in each State, and are computed with average prices for the whole of the year 1912 as base (= 1000).

**Cost of Living Index-Numbers in each State and Commonwealth,†
January to March, 1913.**

Index-Numbers.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'wlth.
Average for Year 1912..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
For Quarter—							
Jan. to March, 1912	933	936	1,000	974	974	939	947
Oct. to Dec., 1912	1,041	1,031	1,002	1,008	989	1,054	1,027
Jan. to March, 1913	1,020	993	970	981	974	993	998

* Particulars as to methods of computation and technique adopted were given in Reports Nos. 1 and 2 of the Labour and Industrial Branch, published in December, 1912, and April, 1913, respectively. The index-numbers, it will be understood, are the ratios in each case of the aggregate expenditure according to average prices prevailing in each period to the aggregate expenditure according to average prices prevailing in 1912, the expenditure in that year being made equal to 1000. Forty-six articles and commodities, in addition to house-rent, are included in the computations.

† Weighted average in each State for the five towns specified in paragraph 3 hereinafter. It is proper to observe that these index-numbers are not fully comparable with those given in Reports Nos. 1 and 2 in regard to variations from year to year in cost of living, since the latter index-numbers refer to the capital towns only and were taken with the year 1911 as base (= 1000). Particulars for all the thirty towns were not available for years prior to 1912, and in this table the year 1912 has, accordingly, been taken as base (= 1000). Particulars fully comparable with those given in Reports Nos. 1 and 2 for the capital towns only may be found in paragraph 5 hereof.

The above figures shew that the cost of living has decreased in all the States since the last quarter of 1912. It still remained higher, however, than in the corresponding quarter of last year in all the States except Queensland, where there was a decrease of 3 per cent., and Western Australia, where there was no difference between the two periods. It will be seen later that the decrease since last quarter was mainly due to a fall in the price of potatoes, onions, flour, butter, cheese, and meat, while the fact that cost of living still remained high, as compared with the corresponding period last year, was due mainly to the continuing upward tendency in house-rents, and to the fact that the price of meat, in spite of the decline since the preceding quarter, was still much higher than in the opening months of last year.

As regards Queensland, where the index-number for January to March, 1913, was lower than for the corresponding period last year, this appears to be due to the fact that that State was not affected to as great an extent by the increases which occurred in 1912, especially in regard to dairy produce and meat.* The same remark is also generally true in regard to Western Australia, with the difference that prices in Queensland remained relatively low, while in Western Australia they remained relatively high.

2. Variations in Retail Prices and House Rent Index-Numbers, 1912 and 1913.—The forty-six commodities and items included in the investigation have been classified into three groups, viz., I. Groceries, II. Dairy Produce, and III. Meat;† in addition House Rent forms the fourth group. In two groups, viz., Nos. I. and III., the weighted average index-numbers for the Commonwealth shew a decrease since the last quarter of 1912. This decrease is more marked in Group I. (from 1061 to 940) than in Group III. (from 1067 to 1033). In spite of these decreases the index-numbers are, however, in both cases higher than those for the corresponding quarter of 1912. In the two other groups the index-numbers shew an increase since last quarter, viz., from 948 to 979 in Group II. (Dairy Produce) and from 1020 to 1034 in Group IV. (House Rent). In Group II. the index-number is practically the same as in the corresponding quarter of 1912, but in Group IV. it is higher, House Rent continuing to shew a steady rise.

The following table shews the index-numbers in each State for each group for the first quarter (January to March) of 1913, compared with those for the quarter immediately preceding (October to December, 1912), and with the corresponding quarter of the preceding year (January to March, 1912). The index-numbers shew the weighted average results for five towns in each State, average prices and rents during the whole of the year 1912 being taken as base (= 10 0).

* This may be seen by reference to the graphs on pages 50 and 51 of Report No. 2 of the Labour and Industrial Branch of this Bureau, and also from the figures shewn in the table on page 26.

† See Report No. 2, Labour and Industrial Branch, p. 47.

Cost of Living in Australia, Index-Numbers for each Group, January to March, 1913, with Year 1912 as Base (= 1000).

Index-Numbers.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'wlth.
I. GROCERIES.							
Average for 1912 .. Quarter—	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Jan. to March, 1912	924	924	988	942	961	911	935
Oct. to Dec., 1912	1,065	1,068	1,045	1,070	1,004	1,102	1,061
Jan. to March, 1913	966	925	926	928	927	913	940
II. DAIRY PRODUCE.							
Average for 1912 .. Quarter—	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Jan. to March, 1912	983	960	1,016	978	984	943	977
Oct. to Dec., 1912	968	930	930	938	965	951	948
Jan. to March, 1913	1,009	964	923	995	966	963	979
III. MEAT.							
Average for 1912 .. Quarter—	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Jan. to March, 1912	864	846	1,005	944	976	901	891
Oct. to Dec., 1912	1,098	1,093	1,002	1,028	946	1,133	1,067
Jan. to March, 1913	1,080	1,016	987	1,029	966	1,047	1,033
IV. HOUSE RENTS.							
Average for 1912 .. Quarter—	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Jan. to March, 1912	944	974	1,001	1,003	978	990	968
Oct. to Dec., 1912	1,032	1,023	996	989	1,021	1,013	1,020
Jan. to March, 1913	1,038	1,044	1,032	992	1,030	1,052	1,034

(i.) *Groceries*.—In all the States there has been a substantial fall in the index-numbers for this group, owing almost entirely to the heavy decline in prices of potatoes and onions. In several of the States there was also a slight fall in the prices of flour and oatmeal. Other commodities remained practically stationary in price.

(ii.) *Dairy Produce*.—The index-numbers for this group have increased in all the States except Queensland, where there was a slight decrease. The increase in Western Australia, however, was very small. Compared with the corresponding period of last year prices in the first quarter of 1913 were, on the whole, a shade higher, but there has been a fairly marked decline in Queensland as well as in Western Australia. In New South Wales the increase was mainly due to the rise in price of milk and eggs, butter and cheese shewing a general fall. In the Broken Hill district, however, the price of milk did

not change, while that of butter fell. In Victoria and Queensland, too, the same changes were generally observed as in New South Wales, the fall in price of butter and cheese being particularly marked in Queensland, while in certain parts of that State—such as Rockhampton and Charters Towers—there was also a fall in the price of milk. In South Australia the price of milk did not generally change, but there was a marked increase in the price of butter, while in Western Australia, on the other hand, there was a distinct fall in the price of both butter and cheese, milk remaining fairly stationary.

(iii.) *Meat*.—In Group III. prices fell in four of the States, while in Western Australia they rose, and in South Australia remained practically stationary. Compared with the corresponding period of last year, however, prices remained high, except in Queensland and Western Australia. The fall in price is generally more marked in the metropolitan than the country towns.

(iv.) *House Rents*.—House rents continue to increase steadily in all the States, except in South Australia, where there are some signs of a slight fall setting in since the beginning of last year. House rents in the metropolitan towns, by reason of the concentration of population, have a preponderating influence on the weighted results, but as the changes generally occur, of course, slowly and gradually, it is a matter of some difficulty to accurately gauge the trend of rents from quarter to quarter.

3. Variations in Cost of Living in each of thirty Towns, January to March, 1912, compared with previous year.—The cost of living index-numbers in the first quarter of the year 1913, for each of the thirty towns included in the inquiry, are given in the following table. The first column shews the base index-number (= 1000) for expenditure based on average prices and house-rent during the whole of the year 1912; the second column gives the index-numbers for the first quarter of 1912, the third column the index-numbers for the last quarter of that year, and the fourth column the index-numbers for the first quarter of 1913.

It may be seen that for each of the towns specified in the States of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania, there was some decrease in the cost of living since the last quarter of 1912; the decrease in these towns was not, however, large enough to reduce the cost to the same level as in the corresponding quarter (January to March) of the preceding year. A similar state of affairs existed in Perth, Midland Junction, and Geraldton. In the other two towns of Western Australia, Kalgoorlie and Bunbury, however, and in all five towns in Queensland, the cost of living fell to such an extent that it was less than in the corresponding quarter of 1912.

Turning to the weighted average results for each State, it is seen that in New South Wales cost of living in the first quarter of 1913 was 2 per cent. higher than the average for the whole year 1912. In all the other States the cost was less in the last quarter than the average during the preceding year, but in Victoria and Tasmania the difference was very small, being only 0.7 per cent. The aggregate result for all thirty towns shews a decrease of only 0.2 per cent.

Cost of Living Index-Numbers (Groceries, Food and House Rent), for each of Thirty Towns, 1912 and 1913, with Average for Year 1912 as Base (= 1000).

Particulars.	1912.			1913. (First Quarter only).
	Base for Whole Year (=1,000).	First Quarter (Jan. to March).	Last Quarter (Oct. to Dec.).	
NEW SOUTH WALES—				
Sydney	1,000	931	1,039	1,020
Newcastle	1,000	944	1,047	1,026
Broken Hill	1,000	946	1,056	1,012
Goulburn	1,000	949	1,078	1,043
Bathurst	1,000	932	1,050	1,017
*Weighted Average	1,000	933	1,041	1,020
VICTORIA—				
Melbourne	1,000	936	1,029	995
Ballarat	1,000	946	1,042	961
Bendigo	1,000	921	1,045	997
Geelong	1,000	940	1,040	996
Warrnambool	1,000	952	1,030	1,005
*Weighted Average	1,000	936	1,031	993
QUEENSLAND—				
Brisbane	1,000	995	1,005	976
Toowoomba	1,000	1,022	989	942
Rockhampton	1,000	1,008	1,004	971
Charters Towers	1,000	1,005	1,002	960
Warwick	1,000	992	962	945
*Weighted Average	1,000	1,000	1,002	970
SOUTH AUSTRALIA—				
Adelaide	1,000	974	1,006	979
Kadina, Moonta, Wallaroo ..	1,000	976	1,029	990
Port Pirie	1,000	978	1,013	988
Mt. Gambier	1,000	958	1,034	999
Petersburg	1,000	980	1,016	987
*Weighted Average	1,000	974	1,008	981
WESTERN AUSTRALIA—				
Perth	1,000	967	990	976
Kalgoorlie and Boulder ..	1,000	999	979	962
Mid. Junction and Guildford	1,000	951	1,007	978
Bunbury	1,000	980	985	974
Geraldton	1,000	958	1,008	998
*Weighted Average	1,000	974	989	974
TASMANIA—				
Hobart	1,000	938	1,063	1,011
Launceston	1,000	940	1,040	965
Zeehan	1,000	952	1,047	978
Beaconsfield	1,000	920	1,081	974
Queenstown	1,000	944	1,034	995
*Weighted Average	1,000	939	1,054	993
†Weighted Average for C'wealth	1,000	947	1,027	998

* Average for the five towns. † Average for thirty towns.

NOTE.—The above figures are comparable in the horizontal lines, but are not directly comparable in the vertical columns. The reason for this is obvious when it is understood that the cost in each town separately, whatever it may be, is made = 1000 for the year 1912.

4. Relative Cost of Living in Different Towns, January to March, 1913.—The figures given in the preceding paragraphs relate to the increase or decrease in cost of living in individual States or towns, and do not afford any information as to the relative cost in these places. The reason for this is obvious when it is understood that in the preceding tables the aggregate expenditure for each town in the base year is represented by the one figure—1000, though actually the cost of living is not, of course, the same in each town.

The figures given in the following table shew the relative cost of living (based on the average prices for the first three months of the year 1913) in the thirty towns for which particulars are collected. The cost of living in each town is compared with the weighted average for all towns. That is to say, the average expenditure in each group in each town has been weighted by a number representing the population of the town and a weighted average expenditure for all towns has been computed. Taking this average expenditure as the base (= 1000) the relative expenditure in each town has been computed.

Cost of Living, January to March, 1913. Index-Numbers shewing Cost in each of Thirty different Towns (including the Average Rent for All Houses) compared with Weighted Average Cost for All Towns.

TOWNS.	I. Groceries and Food.	II. Rent.	III. Groceries Food & Rent.	TOWNS.	I. Groceries and Food.	II. Rent.	III. Groceries Food & Rent.
New South Wales—				South Australia—			
Sydney ..	1,021	1,234	1,106	Adelaide ..	1,009	1,092	1,042
Newcastle ..	1,010	736	901	Kadina Moonta ..	1,025	545	835
Broken Hill ..	1,194	718	1,005	Walleroo ..	1,038	721	912
Goulburn ..	1,069	894	999	Port Pirie ..	915	635	804
Bathurst ..	953	718	860	Mt. Gambier ..	997	803	920
Weighted Average	1,027	1,160	1,080	Petersburg ..			
				Weighted Average	1,008	1,026	1,015
Victoria—				Western Australia—			
Melbourne ..	931	1,017	965	Perth and ..			
Ballarat ..	948	595	808	Fremantle ..	1,146	870	1,036
Bendigo ..	989	637	849	Kalgoorlie and ..	1,434	798	1,181
Geelong ..	975	818	913	Boulder ..			
Warrnambool ..	945	742	864	Midland Junction ..	1,167	772	1,010
Weighted Average	938	951	943	and Guildford ..	1,213	649	989
				Bunbury ..	1,244	1,012	1,152
Queensland—				Geraldton ..			
Brisbane ..	931	800	879	Weighted Average	1,210	848	1,066
Toowoomba ..	915	741	846	Tasmania—			
Rockhampton ..	957	711	859	Hobart ..	1,041	859	969
Charters Towers ..	1,108	559	890	Launceston ..	954	783	886
Warwick ..	970	725	873	Zeehan ..	1,132	439	856
Weighted Average	948	763	875	Beaconsfield ..	1,063	251	741
				Queenstown ..	1,150	531	904
				Weighted Average	1,026	770	924
				Weighted Average for all Towns	1,000	1,000	1,000

Some few words as to the proper interpretation of the above table may not be out of place. The weighted average (1000) for all towns represents the price paid, on the average, by the people of all the towns regarded as a single community. In other words, if the people of the thirty towns are paying on the average £1000 for groceries and food, the people in Sydney are paying £1021, those in Newcastle £1010, and so on. (See column 1.) Or again, if the people of the thirty towns are paying on the average £1000 for groceries, food, and house rent, then those of Melbourne are paying £965, of Ballarat £808,

and so on. (See column 3). Thus in this table the figures are *comparable vertically, but are not directly comparable horizontally*, and this is to be carefully borne in mind in making comparison. That they are not directly comparable horizontally is immediately evident when it is remembered that the average expenditure on each group for all towns is represented by the one figure—1000—though actually this figure does not, of course, represent equal amounts.

5. Capital Towns only.—Cost of Living Index-Numbers 1911 to 1913.

—It has been pointed out (see footnote * to table on page 24) that the index-numbers previously given herein are not generally comparable with those given in Reports Nos. 1 and 2, in which the year 1911 was taken as base (= 1000) for the capital towns only, instead of the year 1912 for all the thirty towns in the previous paragraphs.* In order to maintain the continuity of the results given in these previous reports the following particulars are given for the capital towns only, taking the weighted average cost in 1911, firstly for each town separately, and secondly for all six towns together as base.

Retail Price, House Rent and Cost of Living Index-Numbers in each Capital Town, 1911 to 1913, with Year 1911 as Base. (= 1000).†

Particulars.	1911.	1912.			1913. (First Quarter only).
		First Quarter (Jan. to March).	Last Quarter (Oct. to Dec.).	Average (whole Year.)	
GROCERIES AND FOOD.					
Sydney	1,000	1,047	1,189	1,136	1,148
Melbourne	1,000	1,056	1,190	1,156	1,107
Brisbane	1,000	1,076	1,092	1,082	1,018
Adelaide	1,000	1,079	1,154	1,132	1,101
Perth	1,000	967	968	999	947
Hobart	1,000	1,033	1,218	1,125	1,095
Weighted Average ..	1,000	1,051	1,165	1,129	1,104
RENT.					
Sydney	1,000	1,023	1,117	1,085	1,120
Melbourne	1,000	1,015	1,078	1,047	1,101
Brisbane	1,000	1,045	1,045	1,048	1,095
Adelaide	1,000	1,047	1,029	1,043	1,032
Perth	1,000	1,048	1,126	1,086	1,127
Hobart	1,000	1,008	1,052	1,030	1,121
Weighted Average ..	1,000	1,026	1,087	1,063	1,102
GROCERIES, FOOD, AND RENT.					
Sydney	1,000	1,036	1,157	1,113	1,135
Melbourne	1,000	1,039	1,143	1,111	1,105
Brisbane	1,000	1,065	1,076	1,071	1,045
Adelaide	1,000	1,065	1,100	1,094	1,071
Perth	1,000	991	1,015	1,025	1,000
Hobart	1,000	1,025	1,160	1,092	1,104
Weighted Average ..	1,000	1,040	1,130	1,101	1,101

* Particulars for all 30 towns were collected only as from the 1st January, 1912. Returns for the six capital towns have been obtained for each year since 1901.

† For corresponding figures for previous years see Report No. 1 (pp. 26 to 39) and No. 2 (pp. 48 to 53) of Labour and Industrial Branch.

NOTE—The above figures are comparable in the horizontal lines but are not directly comparable in the vertical columns.

It may be seen that the weighted average result for the capital towns only for the first quarter of 1913 was exactly the same as the average for the whole of the year 1912, being 10.1 per cent. higher than in 1911. Since 1911 the increase in cost of living has been greatest in Sydney (13.5 per cent.), followed in the order named by Melbourne (10.5), Hobart (10.4), Adelaide (7.1), and Brisbane (4.5), while in Perth there is no difference between the cost during January to March, 1913, and the average for the whole year 1911.

6. Purchasing Power of Money.—In the table given in the preceding paragraph, attention was drawn to the fact that the index-numbers are comparable horizontally, but are not directly comparable in the vertical columns. The reasons for this were also pointed out. By combining the results (a) shewing variations in cost of living from year to year in each town separately, and (b) shewing relative cost of living in the several towns during the year 1912, results which are in all respects comparable may be obtained. These are shewn in the following table, in which the average cost for the six capital towns in the year 1911 has been taken as the base. This base has been taken as equal to 20s., instead of 1000, as in the former tables.

Purchasing Power of Money.—Amounts necessary on the Average in each Year from 1901 to 1913 to purchase in each Capital Town what would have cost on the average £1 in 1911 in the Australian Capitals regarded as a whole.

Year.	Sydney.	Melb'ne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Weighted Average of 6 Capital Towns
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1901 ...	18 2	17 3	15 2	17 1	20 4	17 3	17 7
1902 ...	19 11	17 11	15 10	17 1	21 4	17 9	18 7
1903 ...	19 6	17 6	15 7	16 7	21 5	17 10	18 2
1904 ...	17 9	16 11	14 6	16 1	20 7	17 0	17 2
1905 ...	19 1	17 5	15 2	17 3	20 8	17 7	18 0
1906 ...	19 0	17 5	15 5	17 8	20 3	17 10	18 0
1907 ...	18 10	17 4	15 8	17 8	19 6	17 7	17 11
1908 ...	20 1	18 5	16 11	18 10	19 9	18 3	19 0
1909 ...	20 2	17 11	16 10	19 7	19 6	18 11	19 0
1910 ...	20 3	18 8	17 4	19 11	20 3	18 10	19 5
1911 ...	21 0	18 10	18 1	20 11	22 3	18 11	20 0†
1912 ...	23 4	20 11	19 4	22 11	22 10	20 8	22 0
1912 (1st quarter)*	21 9	19 6	19 3	22 4	22 1	19 4	20 9
1912 (4th quarter)†	24 3	21 6	19 6	23 0	22 7	21 11	22 7
1913 (1st quarter)*	23 9	20 9	18 11	22 5	22 3	20 10	22 0

* January to March. † October to December. ‡ Basis of Table.

The above figures shew not only the variations in cost of living from year to year in each town separately, but also (in the horizontal lines) the relative cost in the several towns in each year. Thus each value given for any town and year is directly comparable with any other value. It may be seen, for example, that 18s. 2d. in Sydney in 1901 was equivalent to 17s. 5d. in Melbourne or to 20s. 3d. in Perth in 1906, and to 20s. on the average in all six towns in 1911, and to 23s. 9d. in Sydney in the first quarter of 1913.

While the figures in each vertical column shew the increase and decrease in cost of living from year to year in each town respectively,

those in the horizontal lines shew the relative cost of living in any given year.

(i.) *Groceries and Food only.*—The following table has been computed in the same manner as that indicated above, but relates to *groceries and food* (46 items) *only*. The average expenditure for the six capital towns in 1911 has again been taken as the basis of the table (= 20 shillings) and the figures are, of course, comparable throughout.

Purchasing Power of Money.—Groceries and Food only.—Amount necessary on the Average in each Year from 1901 to 1st Quarter of 1913 to purchase in each Capital Town what would have cost on the Average £1 in 1911 in the Australian Capitals regarded as a whole.

Year.	Sydney.	Melb'ne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Weighted Average of 6 Capital Towns.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1901 ...	18 4	19 4	19 4	20 7	23 8	20 3	19 4
1902 ...	21 4	20 4	20 4	20 6	25 6	21 0	21 1
1903 ...	20 7	19 6	19 9	19 8	25 8	21 1	20 4
1904 ...	17 6	18 4	17 10	18 10	24 3	19 8	18 5
1905 ...	19 5	19 1	18 11	19 10	25 2	20 7	19 8
1906 ...	19 3	18 11	19 2	19 8	24 9	20 11	19 7
1907 ...	18 9	18 6	18 11	19 0	23 11	20 2	19 1
1908 ...	20 7	19 11	20 6	20 2	24 6	21 1	20 7
1909 ...	20 3	19 0	19 8	20 6	24 3	21 10	20 1
1910 ...	20 0	19 2	20 0	20 0	25 0	21 6	20 1
1911 ...	19 9	18 8	20 4	20 5	26 11	21 2	20 0*
1912 ...	22 6	21 8	22 0	23 1	26 11	23 10	22 6
1st Quarter, 1912†	20 9	19 9	21 11	22 0	26 0	21 10.	21 0
4th " 1912‡	23 6	22 3	22 3	23 6	26 1	25 9	23 2
1st " 1913†	22 9	20 9	20 9	22 5	25 6	23 2	22 0

* Basis of Table. † January to March. ‡ October to December.

(ii.) *House Rent only.*—The following table gives similar particulars for *house rent only*, the average for the six towns in 1911 being again taken as the basis of the table (= 20 shillings).

Purchasing Power of Money.—House Rent.—Amount payable on the Average in each Year from 1901 to 1st Quarter of 1913 for House Rent in each Capital Town, compared with a Rent of £1 in 1911 in the Australian Capitals regarded as a whole.

Year.	Sydney.	Melb'ne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Weighted Average of 6 Capital Towns.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1901 ...	17 11	14 4	9 6	12 3	15 7	13 0	15 1
1902 ...	17 11	14 6	9 7	12 3	15 6	13 1	15 2
1903 ...	17 11	14 7	9 11	12 3	15 8	13 2	15 3
1904 ...	18 0	14 11	9 11	12 3	15 7	13 2	15 4
1905 ...	18 6	15 0	10 1	13 8	14 5	13 3	15 8
1906 ...	18 7	15 3	10 3	14 10	14 0	13 5	15 11
1907 ...	19 0	15 8	11 3	15 10	13 4	13 10	16 4
1908 ...	19 3	16 2	12 0	17 0	13 3	14 2	16 10
1909 ...	19 10	16 5	12 11	18 4	13 0	14 7	17 5
1910 ...	20 7	17 11	13 8	19 10	13 7	15 2	18 5
1911 ...	22 7	18 11	15 0	21 8	15 10	15 8	20 0*
1912 ...	24 6	19 10	15 8	22 8	17 2	16 2	21 3
1st Quarter, 1912†	23 1	19 3	15 8	22 9	16 7	15 10	20 6
4th " 1912‡	25 3	20 5	15 8	22 4.	17 10	16 6	21 9
1st " 1913†	25 4	20 10	16 5	22 5	17 10	17 7	22 0

* Basis of Table. † January to March. ‡ October to December.

SECTION V.—WHOLESALE PRICES.

1. **Index-Numbers.**—The index-number for wholesale prices in Melbourne during the first three months of the year 1913 was 1112, compared with 1204 for the three months ended December, 1912, and 1065 for the first three months of that year, the average for 1911 being taken as base (= 1000) in each case. Though there was, therefore, a general fall in prices during the last quarter, it is seen that they were still considerably higher than in the corresponding quarter of the year 1912. The decline was, in fact, almost entirely due to seasonal fluctuations in prices of agricultural and dairy produce and meat, the prices of most of the other 92 commodities included in the investigation either shewing a slight rise or remaining fairly stationary.

The index-numbers for previous years are shown in the following table:—

Melbourne Wholesale Prices.—Index Numbers, 1871 to 1913.

Year.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.
												*
Index—No.	1,229	1,121	945	974	948	1,021	1,115	993	1,003	1,000	1,172	1,112
†												

* First quarter only. † See graph on page 6 hereinbefore.

2. **Variations in Price Levels of Commodity Groups.**—Of the eight groups into which the 92 commodities are classified, the index-numbers for the quarter shewed a considerable fall in the case of Groups III. (Agricultural Produce), IV. (Dairy Produce), and VI. (Meat); in two other groups, viz., V. (Groceries), and VIII. (Chemicals), there were slight decreases, while in the remaining three groups—I. (Metals), II (Textiles, Leather, &c.), and VII. (Building Materials)—there were small increases.

The following table shews the index-numbers for each group and for all groups combined in the last quarter (January to March, 1913), compared with those for the quarter immediately preceding (October to December, 1912) and the corresponding quarter last year (January to March, 1912), the average for the year 1911 being taken in each case as base (= 1000).

Wholesale Prices.—Index Numbers for three Months, January to March, 1913.

Group.	No. of Com- modities.	Index-Numbers.		
		Jan. to Mch. 1912.	Oct. to Dec., 1912.	Jan. to Mch. 1913.
I. Metals and Coal	14	1,002	1,041	1,046
II. Textiles, Leather, etc. ..	10	915	1,032	1,070
III. Agricultural Produce ..	16	1,199	1,461	1,174
IV. Dairy Produce	9	1,134	1,126	1,059
V. Groceries and Tobacco ..	21	1,063	1,038	1,029
VI. Meat	5	1,002	1,393	1,270
VII. Building Materials ..	10	1,017	1,102	1,122
VIII. Chemicals	7	965	991	982
All Groups*	92	1,065	1,204	1,112

* Weighted average.

It may be seen that in Groups I., II., and VII. prices during the first quarter of 1913 were higher than in either the quarter immediately preceding, or the corresponding quarter of 1912. In Groups III., IV., and V., prices were lower during January to March, 1913, than in either of the other quarters specified, while in Groups VI. and VIII., prices were lower than in the quarter immediately preceding (October to December, 1912), but were still higher than in the corresponding quarter of the preceding year (January to March, 1912).

In the following paragraphs of this Section reference is made to the chief features of the rise and fall in price of commodities in each group.

3. Metals and Coal.—Prices of most commodities in this group shewed generally a slight upward tendency, the index-number for the whole group increasing from 1041 in the fourth quarter of 1912 to 1046 in the first quarter of 1913. The chief feature was the rise in the price of pig iron from £4 5s. 11d. to £4 10s. per ton. Lead (sheet) fell from £25 to £23 10s. per ton. It is commonly understood that metal prices are now at a maximum, and although many large contracts have recently been let, there is still apparently some accumulation of stocks. The price of coal has not changed from £1 2s. 6d. per ton since last quarter.

4. Textiles, Leather, &c.—The index-number for this group rose since the last quarter of 1912 from 1032 to 1070, compared with 915 in the corresponding quarter of last year. All the commodities comprised in this group increased in price, with the exception of woolpacks, twine, and tallow. There was a considerable advance in the price of branbags, which rose from 6s. per dozen last quarter to 7s. 3d. in March, 1913. There was also a small rise in cornsacks, but the fact that the country demand for the season has now been met should tend to ease prices. The prices of woolpacks fell from 2s. 10½d. to 2s. 9½d. each, in apparent sympathy with prices in Calcutta.

All classes of leather shewed advances, "Crop" increasing from 1s. 1½d. to 1s. 2¾d. per lb., "Kip" from 1s. 6½d. to 1s. 7¾d., and "Waxed Splits" from 9½d. to 10¾d., owing to the increased cost of hides. During the whole of the first quarter of 1913 the upward tendency continued.

The average price of raw cotton rose one farthing a lb. (from 6¾d. to 6½d. per lb.) since last quarter, but it fell from 6¼d. in January to 6½d. in March, 1913. Greasy Australian wool rose from 9½d. per lb. in the last quarter of 1912 to 10¼d. for the first two months of 1913, and still shews an upward tendency, the average price in January being 10½d., and that in February 10¾d. per lb. The rise is due to the increased demand and the small supply, the exports for the first two months of 1913 being only 89,000,000 lbs., as against 132,000,000 lbs. in the corresponding period of 1912.

The average price of tallow fell from £34 5s. per ton in the last quarter of 1912, to £33 11s. 8d. in the first quarter of 1913, the decline occurring mainly in March, when but little business was transacted in London.

5. Agricultural Produce.—The index-number for this group fell from 1461 in the December quarter of 1912 to 1174 in the first quarter of 1913, compared with 1199 in the corresponding quarter of 1912. Nearly all commodities in this group declined in price owing to the improved harvest of the season 1912-13, as compared with that of 1911-12. The price of wheat fell from 4s. 2½d. per bushel in the last quarter of 1912 to 3s. 7½d. in the first quarter of 1913, due to the increased crop, which is estimated (for Victoria) at 84 million bushels, as against 71 million for the preceding season, the average yield per acre being estimated at 11.39 bushels in 1912-13, as against 9.64 bushels in the preceding season.

The wheat products, flour, bran, and pollard, fell in sympathy, flour from £9 7s. 6d. per ton to £8 17s. 1d., bran from 1s. 2¾d. to 1s. 1½d. per bushel, and pollard from 1s. 4d. to 1s. 2d. per bushel. During the first quarter of 1913, wheat rose a penny a bushel, from 3s. 6¾d. in January to 3s. 7¾d. in March, but flour fell from £9 7s. 6d. per ton in January to £8 17s. 1d. in March, owing to the gradual replacement of the old season's flour by that of the new. Oats, barley, hay, and chaff all fell in consequence of the improved harvest, the corresponding prices per bushel for the two quarters being respectively oats 3s. 0¾d. and 2s. 4¼d., barley (malting) 5s. 9¾d. and 4s. 4d., barley (feed) 4s. 6¾d. and 3s. 2½d., hay (manger) £6 5s. and £5 18s. 4d. per ton, and chaff £4 17s. 10d. and £3 14s. 2d. per ton. The price of oatmeal fell in sympathy with that of oats from £20 15s. to £17 11s. 8d. per ton. Malt also shews a drop in price from 8s. 0¾d. in the last quarter of 1912 to 6s. in the first quarter of 1913. Maize and peas remained practically stationary, but the former fell during the first quarter of 1913 from 4s. 2½d. in January to 3s. 8¼d. in March, owing to their being but little demand and practically no export.

The fall in the price of potatoes was marked, viz., from £13 3s. 4d. in the December quarter of 1912 to £5 5s. per ton in the March quarter of 1913. During the latter quarter, however, there was an upward movement, the average prices being £4 2s. 6d. in January, £5 in February, and £6 12s. 6d. in March, owing, it is stated, to inter-

state buying in February, and the activity of the local market in March. Onions also shew a fall, from £9 14s. 1½d. in the last quarter of 1912 to £6 8s. 4d. per ton in the first quarter of 1913. During the quarter the average price rose from £4 15s. per ton in January to £7 in February, and again to £7 10s. in March.

6. Dairy Produce.—The index-number for this group fell from 1126 for the quarter ended December, 1912, to 1059 for the March quarter of 1913. Every commodity in this group fell, ham from 1s. 0½d. to 11½d. per lb., bacon from 10½d. to 9¼d., cheese from 1s. to 9½d., butter from 11½d. to 11½d.; lard from 8½d. to 6½d., eggs from 11½d. to 11d. per doz., honey from 3½d. to 3d. per lb., beeswax from 1s. 4½d. to 1s. 3½d. per lb., and condensed milk from 5s. 9½d. to 5s. 7½d. per dozen tins.

During the three months, January to March, 1913, the price of ham and bacon fell slightly, but butter rose from 11½d. per lb. in January and February to 1s. in March, due partly to the firming of the London market from 111s. per cwt. in January to 115s. in March, and partly to the autumn season commencing early. Eggs also shewed a slight rise during the quarter from 10½d. per doz. in January to 11½d. in March.

7. Groceries, &c.—The index-number for this group fell from 1038 in the last quarter of 1912 to 1029 in the first quarter of 1913, compared with 1063 in the corresponding quarter of 1912. The prices of several commodities fell, the more important changes being as follows:—Raisins from 6½d. in the December quarter of 1912 to 5d. per lb. in the March quarter of 1913, and sugar from £22 17s. 6d. to £22 12s. 6d. The price of kerosene rose from 10½d. to 10¾d. per gallon, and tea from 8½d. to 8¾d. per lb.

8. Meat.—The index-number fell from 1393 to 1270, but was still much higher than in the corresponding quarter of the preceding year, when it stood at 1002. Beef declined in price from 27s. 5d. per 100 lb. to 23s. 1d., mutton from 3d. per lb. to 2½d. The price of pork also fell from 5½d. to 5¼d. per lb., while veal remained stationary, and lamb rose from 10s. 3d. to 10s. 11d. per carcase.

During the first quarter of 1913 beef fell from 25s. 6d. per 100 lb. in January to 21s. 6d. in February, but rose again to 22s. 3d. in March. Mutton was a trifle higher in March than in January, while lamb and veal fell slightly during the same period. The price of pork had a substantial drop from 6d. per lb. in January to 4½d. in March.

9. Building Materials.—The index-numbers rose from 1102 in the last quarter of 1912 to 1122 in the first quarter of 1913. All timber shews a rise of about 2 per cent., except shelving, which has remained stationary. Cement fell in price from 14s. 4d. per cask to 13s. 10d., and white lead from £37 15s. per ton to £37 3s. 4d., while slates rose from £12 15s. to £13 10s. per 1000. During the first quarter of 1913 the prices of all timbers remained practically stationary, the demand for speculative building purposes being somewhat checked, though a large quantity is required for buildings in course of construction.

The importations of cement and white lead during this quarter were heavy, cement to the value of £81,407 having been imported

during January and February, 1913, as against £29,208 for the corresponding period of 1912, causing the prices to fall, that of cement from 14s. 1½d. per cask in January to 13s. 4½d. in March, and that of white lead from £38 to £36 per ton during the same period.

10. **Chemicals.**—The index-number fell from 991 for the last quarter of 1912 to 982 for the first quarter of 1913, compared with 965 in the corresponding quarter of the preceding year. Cream of Tartar fell from 10d. per lb. to 9¾d., and sulphur from £10 7s. 6d. per ton to £9 6s. 8d. Carbonate of Soda rose from £8 to £8 5s. per ton, and alum from £10 7s. 6d. per ton to £10 10s., while the other commodities remained unchanged in price.

SECTION VI.—INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.

1. **General.**—The collection of information as to strikes and lockouts* throughout the Commonwealth was first undertaken by this Bureau as from the 1st January, 1913. The occurrence of a dispute involving stoppage of work is immediately notified to the Bureau by the Agent and Correspondent for the particular district, an additional check being kept by a daily examination of newspaper files and other publications. On the notification of a dispute, forms are despatched, under the provisions of the Census and Statistics Act, 1905, to the parties to the dispute, separate forms being sent to the employers, trade unions, and employers' association (if any concerned). If the information given by one side in the controversy substantially agrees with that given by the other side, the facts are considered accurate. If there are discrepancies, further investigation is made and the matter determined as judicially as possible, making the summarised result to agree not necessarily with the testimony of a single individual, but to harmonise with the concurrent evidence of the majority or of those whose returns seemed to be most reliable.

2. **Number and Magnitude of Disputes in each State, January to March, 1913.**—The following table gives particulars of strikes and lockouts in each State during the first quarter of the year 1913. The number of workpeople indirectly involved includes all those who were involuntarily deprived of employment as a result of the strike or lockout action of others and were not themselves on strike or locked out. The number of working days lost is computed by multiplying the average number of people who were involved (both directly and indirectly) during the strike or lockout by the number of days for which the dispute lasted. In order to obtain the total number of working days lost, it is necessary to add the number of working days lost during the quarter in respect of strikes and lockouts which began before the 1st January, 1913, but which were in progress on that date. The estimated loss in wages refers to both new and old disputes, and is ob-

* For the purpose of these investigations a strike is defined as a concerted withdrawal from work by a part or all of the employees of an establishment, or of several establishments, with a view to enforcing a demand on the part of the employees. A lockout is a refusal on the part of an employer, or several employers, to permit a part or all of the employees to continue at work, such refusal being made to enforce a demand on the part of the employers, or to resist some demand made by their employees. Under these definitions certain disputes resulting in stoppage of work are excluded—for example, a dispute in connection with the rabbit-trapping industry in New South Wales—for the reason that the relation of employer and employee does not exist between the parties.

tained by multiplying for each strike or lockout the total number of working days lost during the quarter by the average daily wage payable.

All the States, except New South Wales, were comparatively free from industrial disputes of a serious nature during the first quarter of the year 1913. The total number of disputes causing stoppage of work beginning during that quarter was 39, while four disputes which began before January were still in progress on the first day of that month. In the new disputes 11,783 workpeople were directly, and 1451 indirectly, involved. The total number of working days lost in new disputes was 98,601, and this figure, when added to the working days lost by workpeople involved in disputes which began before January, and were still in progress at the beginning of that month, gives a total of 125,521 working days lost during the quarter.

The total estimated loss in wages in new disputes was £44,107, and in disputes in existence at the beginning of the year was £11,780, giving a total estimated loss of £55,887.

Industrial Disputes.—Number and Magnitude of Disputes in each State during January to March, 1913.

State.	Number of Disputes.	Number of Establishments Involved.	Number of Workpeople involved in new Disputes.			Number of Working Days Lost.			Total estimated loss in Wages.
			Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.	New Disputes.	Old Disputes.	Total.	
N.S.W.* ..	25	41	10,030	1,291	11,321	88,370	..	88,370	£ 39,266
Victoria ..	6	12	962	7	969	2,413	2,200	4,613	2,225
Queensland ..	3	3	183	127	310	2,900	19,000	21,900	9,675
S. Australia ..	1	1	10	6	16	208	..	208	75
W. Australia ..	3	318†	587	..	587	4,550	5,720	10,270	4,604
Tasmania ..	1	1	11	20	31	160	..	160	42
Commonwealth	39	376	11,783	1,451	13,234	98,601	26,920	125,521	55,887

* Exclusive of particulars of persons *indirectly* affected by gas employees' strike in Sydney, no reliable information as to number of such persons being available. † Of the 318 establishments involved 316 were affected by the Perth horse-drivers' strike in March.

As the three months commencing on the 1st January, 1913, constitute the first quarter for which statistics relating to strikes and lockouts were collected, comparisons with previous quarters cannot yet be made.

It may be seen that no less than 25 out of the 39 strikes occurring in the whole Commonwealth took place in New South Wales, while only one occurred in each of the States of South Australia and Tasmania.

It should be observed that the figures given in the above table are exclusive of disputes involving less than 10 workpeople or which lasted less than one day, except where the aggregate number of working days lost exceeded 100 days. The omission of these small disputes affects the final results only very slightly. In New South Wales several minor disputes have been omitted for the reason given, e.g., the strike of municipal labourers at Alexandria (Sydney), involving 25 men for less than half a day, the strike of 80 ship painters and dockers at Woolwich Dock, Sydney, in which no day time was lost, and the strike at the shipbuilding yards at Cockatoo Dock, Sydney, in which 200 men ceased work for about two hours. In the other States very few of these minor disputes occurred during the quarter.

3. Number and Magnitude of Disputes in Different Industrial Groups, January to March, 1913.—The following table gives similar particulars in regard to disputes in the first quarter of the year 1913, classified according to industrial groups. It may be seen that Class VIII. (Mining and Quarrying) was affected to a much greater extent than any other group, no less than 22 disputes having occurred in the industries included in that group. In the Northern Colliery district 15 strikes, involving in the aggregate over 4200 men, occurred, while the strike of coal miners on the South Coast fields threw about 3800 men out of employment. The latter strike was still in progress at the end of the quarter.

Industrial Disputes.—Number and Magnitude of Disputes during January to March, 1913, according to Industrial Groups.

Industrial Group.	No. of Disputes	No. of Establishments Involved	No. of Workpeople Involved in New Disputes.			No. of Working Days Lost.			Total estimated loss in Wages.
			Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.	New Disputes.	Old Disputes.	Total.	
I. Wood, Sawmill, Timber, etc.	1	1	11	20	31	160	..	160	£ 42
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	2	2	20	6	26	218	..	218	80
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc.	2	2	53	..	53	132	..	132	58
V. Books, Printing, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
VI. Other Manufacturing*	2	4	2,270	..	2,270	16,080	7,920	24,000	9,220
VII. Building Trades ..	3	9	113	..	113	1,232	..	1,232	643
VIII. Mines, Quarries, etc.	22	33	8,342	1,338	9,680	73,602	7,600	81,202	36,637
IX. Railway and Tramway Services ..	4	4	221	..	221	2,772	11,400	14,172	7,274
X. Other Land Transport ..	1	316	418	..	418	2,090	..	2,090	1,026
XI. Shipping, Wharf Labour, etc.	1	4	320	87	407	2,300	..	2,300	900
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
XIV. Miscellaneous ..	1	1	15	..	15	15	..	15	7
TOTAL *	39	376	11,783	1,451	13,234	98,601	26,920	125,521	55,887

* Exclusive of persons *indirectly* affected by strike of Sydney gas employees, no reliable particulars being available.

4. Particulars of Principal Disputes during the First Quarter, 1913.—In New South Wales the most important strikes during the quarter were the gas employees and the ferry-boat employees in Sydney, the strike of coal miners on the South Coast coal fields, and the dispute at the Burwood Colliery (Newcastle).

In Victoria there were no disputes of a very serious nature during the quarter under review. At the State coal mine at Wonthaggi there were two disputes involving stoppage of work, while in Melbourne the slaters and tilers were involved in a dispute which caused stoppage of work for 13 working days.

The other States were also comparatively free from disputes in the quarter referred to. Particulars of the principal disputes in the Commonwealth during the quarter in question are given in the following tabular statement. The numbers of workpeople affected are the maximum numbers out of work as a result of the dispute at any time in the course of its duration. The date of commencement is the first day on which any of the employees first ceased work, while the date of termination is the last day on which the employees were out of work.

Industrial Disputes.—Particulars of Principal Disputes beginning during first Quarter, 1913.

Industry and Locality Affected.	Number of Workpeople Involved.		Date of Commencement and Termination.	Cause.	Result.
	Directly.	Indirectly.			
N.S. Wales— Wheeler— Burwood Colliery (Newcastle)	80	300	Jan. 8th to Feb. 8th	Wheeler contended that manager departed from existing customs in regard to starting time, and demanded to start descending mine at 6.55 a.m. instead of at 6.30 a.m.	Matter referred to Industrial Court. Judge decided that 6.40 a.m. at the cage at the pit bottom should be starting time.
Gas Works Employees (Sydney)	2,250	*	Feb. 28th to Mar. 7th	Men demanded 1 shilling per day increase on wage specified in existing industrial agreement.	Industrial Court having no power to vary industrial agreement, Premier undertook to call special meeting of Parliament to amend the Act. Employers consenting to cancel agreement, matter referred to Industrial Bd.
Coal-Miners (Southern District)	3,053	817	Mar. 17 (Un- settled at end of quarter)	Alleged victimisation of employees.	Proceeding at end of quarter.
Ferry Boat Employees (Sydney)	320	87	Mar. 21st to 26th	Men claimed reduction of hours, 120 hours per fortnight to 48 per week without reduction of wages.	Negotiations through intervention of Industrial Registrar, matter referred to Board on basis of 96 hours per fortnight.
Victoria— Coal-Miners (Wonthaggi)	24	4	Jan. 15 to 21st	Men demanded shift work rates instead of piece rates, contending that place was deficient.	Negotiations between Union representatives and mine manager. Small increase granted to cover deficiency in particular place. Hewing rate not altered.
Coal-Miners (Wonthaggi)	810	..	Jan. 27 to 30th	Claim by manager for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour between shifts. Men wanted to work with no break.	Negotiations between Union representatives and mine manager. Men returned on original terms offered by manager
Slaters and Tilers (Melbourne)	87	..	Feb. 1st to 15th	Men refused Wages Board rate (12s. per day), having been receiving 13s. per day, and demanded 14s. per day.	Referred to Wages Board which fixed rate at 71s. 6d. for 44 hours per week.
Queensland— Brilliant Extended Mine (Char- ters Towers)	147	50	Jan. 16th to 30th	Men complained of methods of shift boss in handling men.	Inquiry held by management. Charges against shift boss not substantiated.
W. Australia— Transcon- tinental Railway Workers (Kalgoorlie)	109	..	Mar. 11th to 25th	Men demanded increase in wages. Platelayers from 12s. 6d. to 13s. 4d. per day, and labourers 11s. 8d. to 12s.	Work resumed at rates fixed by Minister for Home Affairs, viz., 12s. 6d. and 11s. 8d. respectively, on understanding that Union could negotiate further with Supervising Engineer.
Horse- drivers (Perth)	418	..	Mar. 4th to 8th	Industrial agreement expiring in February, men requested employers to sign new agreement giving increased wages or to meet in conference.	Men resumed work on old conditions. Proceedings taken against 33 members of Union (under Arbitration Act, 1912) for having done something in nature of strike. Nominal penalties imposed. Compulsory conference convened.

* Not available.

SECTION VII.—CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES.

1. **General.**—For the purposes of the statistical investigations made by this Bureau in regard to variations in wages, a change in rate of wages is defined as a change in the weekly rate of remuneration of a certain class of employees, apart from any change in the nature of the work performed or apart from any revision of rates due to increased length of service or experience.* Particulars of such changes have been collected for the whole Commonwealth since the 1st January last.

Various sources of information have been utilised for the purpose of obtaining both primary information as to the occurrence of a change in rate of wages and also the actual data upon which the tabular statements are based. In the first place, by the courtesy of the various officers concerned, this Bureau is furnished each month with lists of all awards of Arbitration and Conciliation Courts, determinations of Industrial and Wages Boards and particulars of all industrial agreements filed. In addition, all changes coming under the notice of the Agents of the Bureau are reported, and the files of many newspapers and periodical publications and reports are searched. The actual data as to the number and occupation of persons affected by a change, the rate of wages before and after the change and the method by which the change is effected, are collected, under the powers of the Census and Statistics Act, 1905, on schedules sent to trades unions, employers and employers' associations (if any concerned in the change). When the returns come in they are compared and checked with copies of awards, determinations and agreements, and the data, which are based on reports made by those best able to furnish the information, are summarised.

2. **Number and Magnitude of Changes in each State, January to March, 1913.**—In some few cases difficulty was experienced in obtaining from the persons concerned satisfactory particulars as to the number of workers affected by changes in rates of wages. In these cases the figures were compiled, where possible, by reference to the results of the Census of 1911 (in which the number of persons in each State in various industries and occupations was obtained), to the ordinary manufacturing statistics (in which the number of males and females in the different manufacturing industries is shewn) and to other sources of information. Again, in two or three cases where a trade or occupation has come for the first time under an industrial tribunal for the regulation of wages—such, for example, as the commercial clerks in Victoria or the threshing machine employees in Tasmania—it has been found impossible to obtain any reliable data as to the average wage prevailing *before* the change took place. For one or other of these reasons, accurate estimates as to the effects of

* It is obvious that under this definition certain classes of changes are excluded, such, for example, as (a) Changes in rates of pay due to promotions, progressive increments, or, on the other hand, to reduction in pay or grade to inefficient workers, and (b) Changes in average earnings in an occupation due to a change in the proportions which higher paid classes of workers bear to lower paid classes.

changes cannot be obtained, and the tables given herein are to that extent incomplete. Changes omitted from the returns are specified in the footnotes to the tables.

The following table gives particulars of changes occurring in each State and the Commonwealth during the first quarter of the year 1913. As regards the number of persons affected, the particulars given refer to the total number of persons ordinarily engaged in the various industries.* The results as to the amount of increase in wages are computed for a full week's work for all persons ordinarily engaged in the several industries and occupations affected, and in case of changes in existing minimum rates under awards or determinations of industrial tribunals, it has ordinarily been assumed (in the absence of any definite information to the contrary) that the whole of the employees in each occupation received the minimum rates of wages before and after the change.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—Number of Changes, Persons affected and Aggregate Amount of Increase per week in each State, January to March, 1913.*

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.*	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.*	C'wth.* ②
No. of Changes	25	12	7	3	2	..	49
No. of Persons affected	16,480	10,352	6,120	460	92	..	33,504
Amount of Increase per week £	4,623	2,411	1,266	79	15	..	8,394

* The particulars given are exclusive of 3 changes in rates, viz., those effected by the determinations of the Clerks' Wages Board in Victoria, and the Threshing Machine Employees', and the Hotels', Restaurants', etc., Boards in Tasmania, no reliable particulars as to number of persons affected by these determinations being available. In South Australia the determination of the Hotels', Restaurants', and Caterers' Board was quashed by the Court of Industrial Appeals.

It should be clearly understood that the figures given in the last line of the above table (amount of increase per week) do not relate to the increase *each* week, but only to the increase in a single week on the assumption that the full number of persons following each particular trade or occupation affected by the change is employed during that week. It is obvious, therefore, that the aggregate effect per annum cannot be obtained without making due allowance for unemployment and for occupations in which employment is seasonal or intermittent. It is also obvious that since unemployment and activity in all branches of industry may vary from year to year, and in many branches from season to season also, no accurate estimate of the actual effect of the changes in the total amount of wages received or paid *per annum* can be made, until the determining factors have been investigated. These factors are (a) the amount of unemployment and (b) the period of employment in seasonal industries. The necessary investigations in regard to these two matters are now being made.

3. Number and Magnitude of Changes in Industrial Groups, January to March, 1913.—The following table gives particulars of changes during the first quarter of the current year classified in industrial groups. The results are, of course, subject to the limitations expressed in the preceding paragraph.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—Number of Changes and Persons affected and Aggregate Amount of Increase per week according to Industrial Groups, January to March, 1913.

Industrial Group.	No. of Changes.	No. of Persons Affected.	Amount of Increase per week.	Industrial Group.	No. of Changes.	No. of Persons Affected.	Amount of Increase per week.
			£				£
I. Wood, Furniture, Timber, etc. . .	5	4,180	877	IX. Rail and Tramway Services . . .	2	97	24
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc. . .	3	1,900	275	X. Other Land Transport . . .	3	5,500	1,790
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc. . .	9	3,888	825	XI. Shipping, etc. . .	1	183	10
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc. . .	3	3,172	480	XII. Agricultural, etc. . .	..	..	..
V. Books, Printing, etc. . .	2	675	156	XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.* . . .	..	..	..
VI. Other Manufacturing . . .	9	1,243	276	XIV. Miscellaneous . . .	5	5,510	1,532
VII. Building . . .	6	7,070	2,139				
VIII. Mines, Quarries, etc. . .	1	86	10	TOTAL* . . .	49	33,504	8,394

* See foot note * to preceding table.

It may be seen that the largest number of persons affected by changes was in Groups VII. (Building), followed in the order named by XIV. (Miscellaneous), Groups X. (Other Land Transport), I. Wood, Furniture, Timber, etc.), III. (Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc.), and IV. (Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc.). In Group VII. the most important awards and determinations coming into operation during the quarter are those affecting painters in New South Wales and Queensland and bricklayers and carpenters in Victoria. In regard to transport workers (Group X.) the most important changes were those of carters and drivers in New South Wales and Queensland; in Group III. (Food, Drink, etc.), the changes in wages of workers in the meat industry in Queensland, in Group XIV. (Miscellaneous), those affecting engine-drivers, shop assistants and municipal labourers and in Group IV. (Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc.), those affecting the boot trade employees (females) in New South Wales and Victoria, are the most important.

SECTION VIII.—ASSISTED IMMIGRANTS.

1. **General.**—Arrangements have been made for the periodic collection of returns as to the number of selected and nominated immigrants arriving in each State, classified in industrial groups on a uniform basis. Particulars for previous years classified according to trade or occupation, etc., are not available. The following table shews, however, the total number of immigrants, the cost of whose passage to this country was wholly or partly borne by the State Governments, up to the end of the year 1906 and the number arriving in each year since that date:—

Commonwealth.—Number of Assisted, Selected, or Nominated Immigrants.

Particulars.	To end of 1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	Jan. to Mar, 1913	Total.
No. of Immigrants	648,601	5,097	6,367	9,820	16,781	39,796	46,712	11,520	784,694

During the six years, 1907 to 1912, inclusive, the total number of assisted immigrants was 124,573, an average of 20,762 per annum and

5190 per quarter, while the number arriving in 1912 was 46,712, or 11,678 per quarter, compared with 11,520 during January to March, 1913.

2. Number of Assisted Immigrants in each State, January to March, 1913.—The following table shews the number of selected and nominated immigrants arriving in each State during the first quarter of the current year:—

Assisted Immigrants.—Number arriving in Each State, January to March, 1911.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'wth.
Selected ..	623	1,300	117	49	544	..	2,633
Nominated ..	4,133	1,397	845	677	1,765	70	8,887
TOTAL ..	4,756	2,697	962	726	2,309	70	11,520

3. Number of Assisted Immigrants classified in Industrial Groups, January to March, 1913.—The following table gives particulars of assisted immigrants of each sex, classified according to industrial groups, dependents being specified separately:—

Assisted Immigrants.—Classified according to Sex and Industrial Group.

Industry.	Males.	Females.	Industry.	Males.	Females.
I. Wood, Timber, Furniture, etc. ..	118	..	IX. Rail, and Tramway Transport ..	65	..
II. Engineering, Metals, etc ..	228	..	X. Other Land Transport ..	75	..
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc. ..	106	14	XI. Shipping Wharf Labour etc. ..	8	..
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc. ..	75	133	XII. Agricultural, Pastoral, Rural ..	1,388	20
V. Books, Printing, Bind-etc. ..	41	1	XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc. ..	79	1,062
VI. Other Manufacturing ..	79	17	XIV. General Labour, and Miscellaneous ..	587	60
VII. Building ..	327	..	Depend- (Adults ..	275	2,722
VIII. Mining ..	87	..	ents. (Children under 12 years ..	1,970	1,983
			TOTAL ..	5,508	6,012

As regards males, it may be seen that by far the greatest number are in Group XII. (Agricultural Labourers, etc.). Of the 1388 male immigrants in that group 409 arrived in New South Wales, 482 in Victoria, and 315 in Western Australia; while of the 1062 females in Group XIII. (Domestic, Hotels, etc.), 521 are reported from New South Wales, 186 from Victoria, and 234 from Western Australia.

SECTION IX.—STATE FREE EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX.

1. General.—In each of the capital towns a free employment bureau has been established under the control of the respective State Governments. There is, however, some diversity as to the scope and functions of these bureaux in the several States. For example, in some of the States (i.e., New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania), assisted and nominated immigrants requiring employment on arrival are dealt with through an immigration bureau and not through the

ordinary employment bureau. In Queensland assisted immigrants are helped to obtain employment both through the employment bureau and by the immigration agent. In South Australia assisted immigrants are mostly nominated, and employment is provided either by the nominators or through the Immigration Department, while in Western Australia all immigrants seeking work are dealt with by the labour bureau. Again, the bureaux in Queensland and Western Australia deal with both male and female applicants for employment, while those in the other States confine their attention solely to males. In New South Wales, however, work is found for "married couples" through the employment bureau. In some of the States, moreover, the employment bureaux are not largely used except for certain special classes of labour. Thus in New South Wales it appears that by far the greater part of the work of the bureau relates to agricultural and pastoral workers and general labourers, while in South Australia the activities of the bureau are mainly devoted to the supply of labour for public works, especially on the railways.

2. Applications and Positions Filled in Each State.—The following table shows the number of applications (a) for employment and (b) from employers and the number of positions filled in each State during the first quarter of the year 1913. It will be seen that the total number of applications for employment was 21,821, as against 9492 applications by employers for workers and 7672 positions filled.

State Free Employment Bureaux.—Applications for Employment and by Employers, and Positions filled in different States, January to March, 1913.

State.	Applications for Employment.			Applications by Employers.			Positions filled.
	On Live Register at Beginning of Quarter.	Received during Quarter.	Total.	Vacant at Beginning of Quarter.	Notified during Quarter.	Total.	
New South Wales	157	710	867	43	738	781	750
Victoria	1,706	7,612	9,318	100	1,915	2,015	1,826
Queensland .. ..	..	2,347	2,347	..	1,728	1,728	1,406
South Australia	479	4,501	4,980	..	1,377	1,377	1,377
Western Australia	178	4,060	4,238	278	3,242	3,520	2,242
Tasmania .. ..	..	71	71	..	71	71	71
COMMONWEALTH	2,520	19,301	21,821	421	9,071	9,492	7,672

NOTE.—Any deductions which can be drawn from the above figures as to the relative state of the labour market in the several States are subject to certain limitations, inasmuch as the scope and functions of the bureaux are by no means identical. (See remarks in paragraph 1 hereof.)

The above figures shew that in each of the States except Tasmania the applications for employment through the free employment bureaux were in excess of the positions vacant, the surplus occurring mainly in Victoria, and to a less extent in South Australia, Western Australia and Queensland. The table in the next paragraph shews that the over-supply of labour was most marked among general labourers, railway and tramway services and the building and engineering metal works, etc., groups.

3. Applications and Positions Filled in Various Industrial Groups.—The following table gives for the first quarter of the current year particulars of the operations of the six State Labour Bureaux, the applications being classified according to industrial groups, instead of States as in the previous table:—

State Free Employment Bureaux.—Applications for Employment and from Employers, and Positions filled in different Industrial Groups, January to March, 1913.

Industry Group.	Applications for Employment.			Applications by Employers.			Positions filled.
	On Live Register at Beginning of Quarter.	Received during Quarter.	Total.	Vacant at Beginning of Quarter.	Notified during Quarter.	Total.	
I. Wood, Furniture, Saw-mill, Timber Workers, etc.	57	280	337	..	123	123	105
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.* . . .	468	1,758	2,226	..	207	207	197
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc.	4	126	130	..	50	50	36
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots . . . . .	..	19	19	2	10	12	5
V. Books, Printing, Binding	20	113	133	..	26	26	26
VI. Other Manufacturing	11	25	36	..	25	25	23
VII. Building	346	1,808	2,154	2	311	313	267
VIII. Mining	2	104	106	..	73	73	68
IX. Rail and Tram Services†	611	4,194	4,805	..	1,283	1,283	1,283
X. Other Land Transport	10	103	113	..	15	15	15
XI. Shipping, Wharf Labour, etc.	16	52	68	..	15	15	12
XII. Agricultural, Pastoral, Rural, etc.‡	84	2,534	2,618	201	2,554	2,755	2,127
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	67	1,156	1,223	212	1,610	1,822	901
XIV. General Labourers and Miscellaneous §	824	7,029	7,853	4	2,769	2,773	2,607
TOTAL	2,520	19,301	21,821	421	9,071	9,492	7,672

It may be seen that the applications for employment were greater than the positions open in each industrial group, except Numbers XII. (Agricultural, Pastoral, etc.), and XIII. (Domestic, Hotels, etc.). The over-supply of labour occurred mainly in Groups XIV. (General Labour and Miscellaneous), IX. (Railway and Tramway Services), VII. (Building Trades) and II. (Engineering, Metal Works, etc.). The surplus in Group XIV. occurred mainly in Victoria and Western Australia, in Group IX. in South Australia, and in Groups VII. and II. in Victoria.

The demand for labour through the free employment bureaux was greater than the supply in respect to Group XII. (Agricultural, Pastoral Workers, etc.), in Victoria and Western Australia, and in Group

* Including railway and tramway workshops. † Excluding railway and tramway workshops, but including construction and maintenance of permanent way and works. ‡ Including horticultural, viticultural and gardening. § Excluding railway and tramway employees and labourers employed on railway and tramway construction and maintenance.

XIII. (Domestic, Hotels, etc.), in Western Australia only. Attention may, however, be again drawn to the fact that there is considerable diversity in the scope of work ordinarily carried out by the Bureaux in the several States. For example, in the Eastern States there is a large demand for domestic servants, but applications from employers for this class of labour, in so far as immigrants are concerned, are dealt with by the Immigration Bureau and not by the ordinary employment bureaux, as in Western Australia.

4. **Applications and Positions Filled, Males and Females.**—Of the total number of registrations for employment, 20,987 were from males and 834 from females. Of the latter number 812 were in Group XIII. (Domestic, Hotels, etc.), 727 registrations being reported in this group from Western Australia, and the remaining 85 from Queensland. The fact that no other registrations were reported from females in this group from any of the other States is presumably due to the fact that persons seeking domestic service in these States are dealt with by the immigration department.

As regards applications by employers 7854 were for male employees and 1638 for females. Of the latter number 1619 were in Group XIII., 1541 being reported from Western Australia, and the remaining 78 from Queensland.

The following table gives particulars for male and female workers separately of the number of applications for employment, and from employers and the number of positions filled:—

State Free Employment Bureaux.—Applications and Positions Filled, Males and Females, January to March, 1913.

Particulars.	Applications for Employment.			Applications by Employers.			Positions filled.
	On Live Register at Beginning of Quarter.	Received during Quarter.	Total.	On Live Register at Beginning of Quarter.	Received during Quarter.	Total.	
Males	2,520	18,467	20,987	212	7,642	7,854	6,940
Females .. .. .	..	834	834	209	1,429	1,638	732
TOTAL	2,520	19,301	21,821	421	9,071	9,492	7,672

SECTION X.—INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

1. **Scope of Investigation.**—It has been found impracticable at the present stage to extend the scope of these investigations to all industrial accidents sustained by workmen in the course of their employment, and the particulars given in this section relate only to such accidents as are reported to various State authorities under the provisions of Acts relating to factories, mines, boilers, scaffolding and lifts. It may be mentioned, however, that arrangements are being made to extend the investigation on a more comprehensive basis by the collection of periodic returns in regard to accidents coming within the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Acts in the various States.

Since statutory provisions do not exist in all the States for the reporting of accidents of the nature indicated, and even in those States in which such provisions exist they do not in all cases extend to the whole State, the following tabular statement has been compiled in order to shew the localities to which these provisions apply in the several States:—

Industrial Accidents.—Localities in each State to which Statutory Provisions relating to the Reporting of Accidents apply.

State.	Compulsory Reporting of Accidents—				
	In Factories.	In Mines.	Other Machinery and Boilers.	Scaffolding.	Lifts.
N.S.W. . .	Metropolitan, Newcastle, Western, Goulburn, Albury and Broken Hill Districts.	(Applies to all Miners coming under Provisions of Miners' Accident Relief Act—about 30,000 out of 37,000 Miners included).	*	Metropolitan and Newcastle Districts.	Metropolitan and Newcastle Districts.
Victoria . .	Whole State.	Whole State.	Boilers, Whole State. Machinery, no provision.	*	Whole State.
Queensland . .	Metropolitan and 12 other proclaimed towns.	Whole State.	Whole State.	Whole State.	*
S. Australia . .	Metropolitan Area.	Whole State.	Boilers, Whole State. Machinery, no provision.	Metropolitan Area.	Metropolitan Area.
W. Australia	Central and South Western Divisions.	Whole State.	Same as Factories.	*	*
Tasmania . .	Whole State.	Whole State.	Northern, North-Eastern, North Western, Western, and Southern Districts.	*	*

* No provision for compulsory reporting of accidents.

2. Number of Accidents reported in each State during First Quarter, 1913.—The following table shews the number of fatal accidents and of accidents causing incapacitation for work for over 14 days reported in each State under the Acts referred to in paragraph 1 hereof:—

Industrial Accidents.—Number Reported in Each State during First Quarter, 1913.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	C'wealth.
No. of fatal accidents	21	7	13	..	11	..	52
No. of accidents incapacitating for over 14 days	755	89	48	32	144	19	1,087

It may be seen that the largest number of accidents—both fatal and other—occurred in New South Wales. The number of accidents in New South Wales causing incapacitation for over 14 days appears to be large in comparison with the figures for other States; of the 755 non-fatal accidents reported in this State, 649 occurred in the mining industry.

3. Number of Accidents reported in each Industrial Group during first Quarter, 1913.—The following table gives similar particulars as to accidents in various industrial groups:—

Industrial Accidents.—Number Reported in Various Industrial Groups during first Quarter, 1913.

Industrial Group.	Fatal.	Incapacitated for over 14 days.	Industrial Group.	Fatal.	Incapacitated for over 14 days.
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	4	45	VII. Building and Scaffolding ..	2	14
II. Engineering, etc. ..	2	62	VIII. Mining ..	37	849
III. Food, Drink, etc. ..	2	40	IX. Lifts ..	1	2
IV. Clothing, Hats, etc.	1	11	X. Miscellaneous	1	2
V. Books, Printing, etc.	1	30			
VI. Other Manufacturing	2	32	TOTAL ..	52	1,087

The largest number of accidents, both fatal and otherwise, occurred in the mining industry. Of the 37 fatal accidents in that industry 17 occurred in New South Wales, 9 in Queensland, 9 in Western Australia, and 2 in Victoria; while of the 849 non-fatal accidents 649 occurred in New South Wales, 132 in Western Australia, 27 in Queensland, 24 in Victoria, 15 in Tasmania, and 2 in South Australia.

SECTION XI.—RECENT LEGISLATION IN AUSTRALIA SPECIALLY AFFECTING LABOUR.

(In this Section it is intended to include each quarter brief references to the more important Acts and Bills specially affecting conditions of labour and industrial matters passed or introduced in the Commonwealth or State Parliaments.)

1. General.—While it is, of course, not possible to refer, within the scope of this Bulletin, other than very briefly to the numerous Acts more directly affecting labour and industrial matters in force in the several States, with a view to preserving to some extent the

continuity of the information which it is intended to furnish in this Section, it has been thought desirable to publish in the first number of this Bulletin some condensed information in tabular form in regard to these Acts. An attempt is accordingly made in the following paragraphs to furnish particulars of the chief Acts in force, and also to give in comparative form a conspectus of the leading provisions of the Acts relating to conditions of labour and the regulation of wages by industrial tribunals. In future issues it is intended not only to furnish information as to the leading features of new Acts, but also to publish from time to time comparative statements, similar to those given herein, of Acts relating to such matters as workmen's compensation, employers' liability, trade unions, &c. In this way it is hoped to establish a tolerably complete register of Australian legislation specially affecting labour matters.

2. Tabular Statement of Statutes affecting Labour.—The Statutes in force at the beginning of 1913 in the several States of the Commonwealth, which more or less directly affect the general conditions of labour, are shewn in the table below. Where merely an incidental reference to labour conditions is made in a statute, as is the case with, *e.g.*, the Hawkers and Pedlars Act 1892 of Western Australia, or the Firms Registration Act 1899 of South Australia, the Act is not included in the table.

LABOUR LAWS—TABLE OF STATUTES IN FORCE IN AUSTRALIAN STATES, 1913.

New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Aust.	Western Aust.	Tasmania.
<i>1. General—</i>					
Factories & Shops Act 1912	Factories and Shops 1912	Factories and Shops 1900 and 1908	Factories 1907, 1908 and 1910	Factories 1904 (2) Early Closing 1902, 1904 (2), 1911 and 1912.	Factories 1910 and 1911
Early Closing 1899, 1900, 1906, and 1910	Factories and Shops 1912 (2)		Early Closing 1911		Wages Boards 1910 and 1911
Saturday Half Holiday 1910					Chimney Sweepers 1882
Clerical Workers 1910					Shops Closing 1911
<i>2. Prevention of Strikes and Regulation of Rates of Wages—</i>					
Industrial Arbitration 1912	Factories and Shops (as above)	Industrial Peace Act 1912	Factories Acts 1907-10	Industrial Arbitration Act 1912	
			Industrial Arbitration Act 1912		
<i>3. Mining Industry—</i>					
Mines Inspection 1901	Mines 1897	Mining 1898, 1901 and 1902	Mining 1893	Mines Regulation 1906	Mining 1900, and 1911
Coal Mines Regulation 1902, 1905, and 1910	Coal Mines Regulation 1909	Mines Regulation 1910		Coal Mines Regulation 1902	
Miners' Accident Relief 1900, 1901 and 1910				Mining 1904	
<i>4. Security of Wages to Wage Earners—</i>					
Contractors' Debts 1897	Employers and Employees 1890, 1891 and 1901	Contractors' & Workmen's Lien 1906	Workmen's Liens 1893-6	Workmen's Wages 1898	—
		Wages 1870 and 1884			
Attachment of Wages Limitation 1900	—	Wages (as above)	Wages Attachment 1898	—	Wages Attachment 1900

New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Aust.	Western Aust.	Tasmania.
*Truck 1900 " 1901	—	Factories and Shops (as above)	Factories (as above)	*Truck 1899 * " 1900 * " 1904	—
Bankruptcy (preference to wages) 1898 to	Insolvency 1897	Insolvency 1874 Insolvency 1876	Insolvency 1886 " 1887 " 1896	Bankruptcy 1892 " 1898	Bankruptcy 1870 Bankruptcy 1899
5. Accommodation, Homes, &c.—					
Shearers' Accommodation 1901	—	Shearers' and Sugarworkers' Accommodation 1905 Do. 1906	Shearers' Accommodation 1905	—	—
—	Closer Settlement (Workers' Homes) 1904	—	—	—	—
—	—	Workers' Dwelling 1909 and 1912.	—	Workers Homes 1911 Navigation 1904 " 1907 Merchant Shipping Act Application 1903	—
6. Inspection of Machinery, &c.—					
—	Boilers' Inspection 1906	Inspection of Machinery & Scaffolding 1908	Steam Boilers and Engine Drivers 1911 Lifts' Regulation 1908 Scaffolding Inspection 1907 and 1908	Inspection of Machinery 1904	Inspection of Machinery 1902 " " 1909 White Phos. Matches Prohibition 1911
7. Trade Unions—					
Trade Unions 1881	Trade Unions 1890	Trade Unions 1886	Trade Unions 1876	Trade Unions 1902	Trade Unions 1889
8. Relations of Masters and Servants—					
Masters & Servants 1902	Employers and Employees 1890, 1891 and 1901	† Apprentices 1828 " 184† Master and Servants 1861	Masters & Servants 1878 Defence of Workers 1909	Masters and Apprentices 1873 Masters & Servants 1892	Masters & Servants 1856 " " 1882 " " 1884 " " 1887
—	Servants' Registry Offices 1897	—	—	Employment Brokers 1909	—
9. Liability in case of Accidents—					
Employers' Liability 1897	Employers and Employees 1890 (Employers' Liability) and 1901	Employers' Liability 1886 8	Employers' Liability 1884-9	Employers' Liability 1894	Employers' Liability 1895 1898 and 1903
Workmen's Compensation 1910	—	Workers' Compensation 1905 and 1909	Workmen's Compensation 1911	Workers' Compensation 1902 and 1909	Workers' Compensation 1910

* The "Truck" system, as applied to labour, was one by which the master obtained the labour of his servants in exchange for goods or commodities on which it is stated he generally secured a profit. The system is now almost entirely suppressed by the various statutes enacted. † New South Wales Acts, unrepealed in Queensland after Separation in 1859.

3. Labour Conditions in Factories.—Several important amendments and consolidations of the Factories and Shop Acts in the several States have recently been made. In New South Wales the Factories and Shops Act 1912, repealing the Factories and Shops Act 1896 and 1909 and the Minimum Wage Act 1908, was assented to in November, 1912, while the Victorian Factories and Shops Act 1912, amending and consolidating the Acts of 1905 and 1910 came into force on the 1st January, 1913.

HEADING.	NEW SOUTH WALES.	VICTORIA.	QUEENSLAND.
<i>Principal Acts</i>	Factories and Shops 1912.	Factories and Shops 1912 1912 (2).	Factories and Shops 1900. 1908.
<i>Application of Acts— Limitations</i>	In districts proclaimed Not applicable where all the workers are members of the same family. Not applicable to woolsheds, dairies, or ships. Governor may exempt any factory or class of factory in any district.	In cities, towns and boroughs; also shires to which ex- tended. Not applicable to dairying, agricultural, horticultural, vicultural and pastoral occupations. Not applicable to laundries attached to prisons or religious and charitable institutions.	Only in areas proclaimed. Not applicable to prisons, re- formatories, dairies, mines, agricultural buildings, & domestic workshops. Governor may exempt parti- ally or wholly any factory or class of factories in a given district.
<i>Definition of Factory— By Nos. Employed</i>	Four or more.	Four or more.	Two or more (including occupier).
„ Asiatics ..	One or more Chinese.	One or more Chinese	One Asiatic.
„ Power used	Steam or mechanical.	Steam or mechanical.	Steam or mechanical.
„ Special classes included	Bakehouses.	Bakehouses, laundries, dye- works, quarries, clay-pits, furniture. Gas and electric light &c., works.	Bakehouses, laundries.
<i>Administration</i>	Minister of Labour.	Minister of Labour.	Secretary for Public Works.
<i>Inspectorate</i>	Inspectors with full powers of entry, examination and enquiry.	Inspectors with full powers of entry, examination and enquiry.	Inspectors with full powers of entry, examination, and enquiry.
<i>Registration</i>	Seven days' prior notice.	Fourteen days' notice after occupation. Annual re-registration.	Seven days' prior notice.
<i>Outwork</i>	Occupier of factory to keep record, shewing places where work done and rates of payment.	Occupier to keep record of description, quantity, re- muneration, names and addresses. Out-workers must register in clothing, wearing-apparel, or boot trades.	Sub-contractors' premises subject to factory regula- tions. Occupier to keep records shewing places, de- scription, and quality of work; nature and amount of remuneration paid. Out- workers must register. Sub-letting forbidden.
<i>Meals in Workroom</i>	Minister may forbid while work is going on; he may require provision of a suit- able eating-room.	Forbidden while work going on, unless Chief Inspector permits. Forbidden if dangerous trade conducted.	Minister may forbid meals being taken in factories; he may require provision of suitable eating room.
<i>Sanitary Health and Safety Provisions</i>	Factories to be clean, whole- some, and well ventilated. Over-crowding forbidden. Unhealthy persons under six- teen may be suspended from daily work. Avoidance of infection pre- scribed. Factories to be thoroughly cleaned once in fourteen months. Bakehouses and furniture factories not to be used as sleeping places. Seats to be provided for fe- males. Proper necessary precautions to be taken against fire, and efficient fire escapes to be provided.	Factories to be clean, whole- some, and well ventilated. Over-crowding forbidden. Factories to be thoroughly cleaned once in fourteen months. Bakehouses to be washed once every six months Factories and bakehouses not to be used as sleeping places. Wet spinners must be pro- tected. Efficient fire escapes to be provided, and fire appli- ances kept ready. Doors, &c., to be kept free from obstruction.	Factories to be kept clean, wholesome, and well veni- lated. Over-crowding forbidden. Suspension of work by un- healthy persons may be enforced. Avoidance of infection pre- scribed. Fresh drinking water to be provided. Factories to be thoroughly cleaned once in twelve months. Bakehouses not to be used as sleeping places. Seats to be provided for fe- males. Proper necessary precautions to be taken against fire.
<i>Dangerous Machinery</i>	Must be fenced Employment of women and boys forbidden.	Must be fenced. Employment of women and boys forbidden. First-aid ambulance-chest to be kept on premises.	Must be fenced.*
<i>Minimum Wage per week</i>	4s. No premiums or bonus on be- half of apprentices is per- mitted.	2s. 6d. No premium is to be de- manded from female ap- prentices and improvers in clothing trades.	5s. No premium is permitted from apprentices without permission of Inspector.

* See Machinery and Scaffolding Act 1908.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.	TASMANIA.
Factories 1907, 1908, and 1910.	Factories 1904 (2).	Factories 1910 and 1911.
In places determined by Parliament. Not applicable to domestic servants and agricultural and pastoral pursuits.	In districts proclaimed; Not applicable to mines, dairies, ships, prisons, reformatories, domestic (other than Asiatic) workshops. Governor may exempt any factory.	Whole State. Not applicable to mines, ships, prisons, reformatories, rural industries, charitable institutions. Governor may exempt any factory.
Any one person.	Six or more.	Four or more.
Laundry, dyeworks.	One Asiatic. Steam or mechanical. Bakehouses, laundries.	One Asiatic. Steam or mechanical. Bakehouses, quarries.
Minister of Industry.	Honorary Minister.	Chief Secretary.
Inspectors with full powers of entry, examination and enquiry.	Inspectors with full powers of entry, examination and enquiry.	Inspectors with full powers of entry, examination and enquiry.
Twenty-one days' prior notice.	Prior notice. Annual re-registration if Asiatics employed	Twenty-one days' prior notice.
Occupier to keep record. Out-workers to register names and addresses.	Occupier to keep record of names and addresses, and quantity and description of work done. Sub-letting forbidden.	Occupier to keep record of names and addresses, and quantity and description of work done.
Minister may forbid meals in factories carrying on noxious trades; he may require provision of suitable eating-room.	Forbidden for women and boys, except with Inspector's written permission.	Forbidden where employees working. In certain factories meal room to be provided.
Factories to be kept wholesome, clean, and well ventilated. Over-crowding forbidden. Factories to be thoroughly cleaned once in fourteen months. Adequate protection to be made against fire.	Factories and connected yards to be clean, wholesome, and well-ventilated. Over-crowding forbidden. Unhealthy persons may be forced to suspend work. Goods, clothing, etc., to be disinfected where necessary. Fresh drinking water to be provided. Thorough cleaning to be regularly done. Bakehouses not to be used as sleeping places. Efficient fire escapes to be provided and other necessary protection to be made against fire.	Factories to be clean, wholesome, and well ventilated. Overcrowding forbidden. Factories may be required to be cleaned once in fourteen months. Factories not to be used as sleeping places. Doors, &c., to be kept clear of obstructions, and fire-prevention appliances kept ready for use.
Must be fenced. Employment of children under sixteen may be forbidden.	Must be fenced. [†] Inspector may prohibit as dangerous machine. [†] Employment of females and boys forbidden.	...
4s. No premium is to be paid by female apprentices.	...	4s. No premium in respect to employment is permitted.

[†] See Inspection of Machinery Act 1904.

HEADING.		NEW SOUTH WALES.	VICTORIA.	QUEENSLAND.
<i>* Ordinary Age of Admission to Factory</i>		14	Boys 14 years Girls 15 years	14
<i>Maximum Working Hours of Women and Young Persons</i>	Per week	Boys under 16 and all females 48 hours	Boys under 16 and all females. 48 hours	Boys under 16 and all females, 48 hours
	„ day	...	Do., 10 hours. Females under 18 or males under 16 as type-setters, 8 hours	...
	Maximum hours of continuous labour	Boys under 18 and all females 5 hours	Boys under 18 and all females, 5 hours.	Do., 5 hours
	Interval	Do., $\frac{1}{2}$ hour	Do., $\frac{1}{2}$ hour	Do., $\frac{1}{2}$ hour
<i>Prohibited Hours of Work</i>		Boys under 16 and all females 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.	Girls under 16, 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. Males under 16 and all females, after 9 p.m.	Girls under 18, 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. Boys under 16, 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.
<i>Overtime—</i>				
Limitation—Per day		Three hours	Three hours	Three hours
„ week		Three consecutive days	One day	(Two consec'tive dys.
„ year		Thirty days	Ten days	Fifty-six hrs per wk.
Continuous				not to be exceeded Forty days
<i>Overtime Pay</i>		Time and a-half	Wage workers, time & a-half Piece workers, additional 3d. per hour	Time and a-half, but not below 6d. per hr.
<i>Prohibition of Employment after Childbirth</i>		4 weeks	...	...
<i>Restrictions and Prohibitions of Employment affecting Women and Young Persons in Dangerous Trades</i>	Type-setting	Persons under 16	Boys under 14; girls under 15	...
	Dry grinding and match dipping	Persons under 16+	Persons under 16	...
	Manufacture of bricks and tiles	Girls under 18	Girls under 16	...
	Making and finishing of salt	Girls under 18	Girls under 16	...
	Melting or annealing of glass	Boys under 16; girls under 18	Girls under 18	...
	Silvering of mirrors by mercurial process; manufacture of white lead	Persons under 18	Persons under 18	...
	Cleaning of machinery in motion, mill gearing, etc.	All females; boys under 18+	All females; boys under 18	All females; boys under 18
	Charge of lift	All females; boys under 16+	...	All females; boys under 16

* The ages given are those at which admission to factory labour is unrestricted. In some States younger children are admitted if having passed school standards, or by special permit from the Minister or inspector.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.	TASMANIA.
13	14	14
Boys under 16 and all females, 48 hours Do., 10 hours	Boys under 14 and all females 48 hours Do., 8½ hours	Boys under 16 and all females, 48 hours Females, 10 hours
Do., 5 hours	Do., 5 hours	Boys under 18 and all females, 5 hours
Do., ½ hour	Do., ¾ hour	Females & young persons, 1 hour
Females, after 9 p.m. Boys under 16, after 9 p.m.	Females, 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. Boys under 14, 6 p.m. to 7.45 a.m.	Boys under 16 and all females, after 9 p.m. ...
... } Seven hours per week 100 hours	Three hours Two consecutive days Thirty days	55 hours per week not to be exceeded ... 200 hours (Fruit, jam, etc., factories exempted in certain months)
Time and a-quarter	Time and a-quarter	Time and a-quarter
...	4 weeks	...
Boys under 16 and all females not more than 8 hours per day, and not after 6 p.m. or before 6 a.m.	Girls under 15	Boys under 16 and all females not more than 8 hours per day, nor between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m.
Persons under 16	...	Persons under 16
Girls under 16	Girls under 16	Girls under 16
Girls under 16	Girls under 16	Girls under 16
Boys under 14; girls under 18	...	Females under 18
Persons under 18	All females; boys under 18	All females; boys under 18
All females; boys under 18	All females; boys under 18	...
All females; boys under 18	Females under 21; boys under 16	...

† In N.S.W. this restriction applies also to casting from molten lead. ‡ In N.S.W. this restriction applies also to persons in charge of or attending to any engine or boiler.

§ In N.S.W. this restriction applies also to any machinery classed as dangerous.

(General Conditions.—The tabular statement "A" on pages 52 and 53 shews some of the leading features of the Factories and Shops Act in force in the several States.

(ii.) *Employment of Women and Young Persons in Factories.*—The tabular statement "B" on pages 54 and 55 shew the chief provisions of the Act in so far as they especially concern the employment of women and young persons. The principal Acts in force and the limitations to their application are the same as shewn in table "A" on pages 52 and 53.

4. **Labour Conditions in Shops.**—In all the States Acts have been passed to regulate the hours during which shops in large centres may be kept open for business, and prescribing the maximum number of hours of employment. The leading features of these Acts are shewn in comparative form in the following tabular statement:—

EMPLOYMENT IN SHOPS, COMPARATIVE VIEW OF LEADING

HEADING.	NEW SOUTH WALES.	VICTORIA.	QUEENSLAND.
<i>Acts</i>	As for factories Early Closing Act Minimum Wage Act	As for factories	As for factories
<i>Statutory Maximum Hours of Employment.</i> (a) Male, adults	...	52 hours per week	53 hours per week
(b) Females and Boys { per week per day	Girls under 18, boys under 16, 52 hours Girls under 18, boys under 16, 9½ hours (except 1 day, 11½ hours)	52 hours 9 hours (except 1 day, 12 hours)	Females and boys under 16, 52 hours Females and boys under 16, 9½ hours (except 1 day, 11½ hours)
Maximum continuously	All females: 5 hours	All persons: 5 hours	...
Interval	All females: ½ hour	All persons: ½ hour	...
Maximum { Overtime { per day per year	... ...	3 hours 25 days	3 hours 40 days
General closing time	4 days, 6 p.m.; Fridays, 10 p.m.; Saturdays, 1 p.m.*	4 days, 6 p.m.; Saturdays, 1 p.m.; Fridays, 10 p.m.	4 days, 6 p.m.; 1 day, 9 p.m.; Saturdays (or other prescribed weekly holiday), 1 p.m.
Exemption from closing time	Certain shops	Businesses concerned with tobacco, bicycles, flowers, drugs and edibles, also hair- dressers and pawnbrokers	Certain exempted shops
Seats in Shops	1 to 3 females	1 to 3 assistants	1 to 3 females

* In the Metropolitan and Newcastle districts Saturday is the 1 o'clock closing day; in 56 country shopping districts and in 189 other districts Wednesday is the 1 o'clock and Saturday the 10 o'clock closing day.

5. Industrial Tribunals for the Regulation of Wages by the State.—In nearly all the States the Acts now in force relating to wages boards and industrial conciliation and arbitration were passed during last year. In New South Wales the Industrial Arbitration Act, 1912, has replaced the Industrial Disputes Act 1908-10; in Victoria there is the Factories and Shops Act 1912, consolidating, amending, and repealing previous Acts; in Queensland the Industrial Peace Act 1912 repealed the Wages Board Acts 1908 to 1912; in South Australia the wages board system under the Factories Acts 1907 to 1910 have been supplemented by the establishment of an Arbitration and Conciliation Court under the Industrial Arbitration Act 1912; in Western Australia the previous Acts have been repealed by the Industrial Arbitration Act 1912; and in Tasmania the original Wages Board Act of 1910 was amended in 1911.

The tabular statement shews that while the wages board system is in force in Victoria and Tasmania, and the Arbitration Court system in Western Australia, all the other States have now adopted a combination of the two systems (see pages 58 and 59).

FEATURES OF ACTS IN FORCE IN AUSTRALIA, 1913.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.	TASMANIA.
Early Closing, 1911	No. 24 of 1902 No. 1 of 1904 No. 52 of 1904 No. 1 of 1912	As for factories Shops Closing 1911
...	56 hours per week	...
Boys and girls under 16, 52 hours	Boys under 16 & all females, 52 hours	Females and boys under 16, 52 hours
Boys and girls under 16, 9 hours (except 11 hours on 1 day)	Boys under 16 & all females, 9 hours (except 10½ hours on 1 day)	Females and boys under 16, 9 hours (except 12 hours on 1 day)
...	One hour interval between noon and 3 p.m. If open after 6.30 p.m., 1 hour for tea	Females and boys under 16, 5 hours
...		Females and boys under 16, ¾ hour
3 hours 40 days	3 hours 12 days per half-year	3 hours 40 days
4 days, 6 p.m.; 1 day, 9 p.m.; 1 day, 1 p.m.	4 days, 6 p.m.; 1 day, 9 p.m.; 1 day, 1 p.m. (Opening hour not earlier than 8 a.m.)	4 days, 6 p.m.; 1 day, 10 p.m.; 1 day, 1 p.m.
Certain classes of shops	Shops such as hairdressers, newsagents, tobacconists, and those selling drugs and edibles	Small shops with no paid assistants
...	...	1 to 3 females

<i>Particulars.</i>	NEW SOUTH WALES.	VICTORIA.	QUEENSLAND.
<i>Name of Acts</i>	Industrial Arbitration Act 1912	Factories and Shops Act 1912	Industrial Peace Act 1912
<i>Nature of Tribunals</i>	Court of Industrial Arbitration. Industrial Boards	Court of Industrial Appeals. Wages Boards	Industrial Court. Industrial Boards
<i>How Tribunals are brought into existence</i>	Industrial Court (Judge) constituted by Act. Industrial Boards by the Minister on recommendation of Industrial Court.	Court constituted by Acts. Wages Boards by Governor-in-Council on resolution of Parliament	Industrial Court constituted by the Act. Industrial Boards, by Governor-in-Council on recommendation of Court
<i>Scope of Acts</i>	To industrial groups named in Schedule to Act, and those added by Proclamation. Includes Government servants	To any process, trade, business, or occupation specified in a resolution. Government servants are not included	To callings specified in Schedule to Act, and to those added by Governor-in-Council
<i>How a trade is brought under review</i>	Reference by Court or Minister, or by application to the Board by employers or employees	Usually by petition to Minister	By petitions and representations to Industrial Registrar
<i>President or Chairman of Tribunal</i>	Appointed by Minister on recommendation of Court.	Appointed by Governor-in-Council on nomination of Board, or failing that on nomination by Minister	Any person elected by Board. If none elected, appointment is by the Governor-in-Council on recommendation of Court
<i>No. of members of Tribunal</i>	Chairman, and 2 or 4 other members	Not exceeding 11 (including chairman)	Not less than 5 nor more than 13 (including chairman)
<i>How ordinary members are appointed</i>	Appointed by Minister on recommendation of Industrial Court	Nominated by Minister. But if one-fifth of employers or employees object, representatives are elected by them	By employers and employees respectively
<i>Decisions — how enforced</i>	By Registrar, Industrial Magistrate and Inspectors	By Factories Department in Courts of Petty Sessions	By Inspectors of Factories and Shops, Department of Labour
<i>Duration of decision</i>	For period fixed by Tribunal, but not more than 3 years.	Until altered by Board or Court of Industrial Appeals	12 months and thereafter, until altered by Board or Court
<i>Appeal against decision</i>	To Industrial Court against decision of Boards	To the Court of Industrial Appeals	To Industrial Court
<i>If suspension of decision possible pending appeal</i>	No	Yes; for not more than 12 months	Yes; for not more than 3 months
<i>Can preference to unionists be declared?</i>	Yes	No	No
<i>Provision against strikes and lockouts</i>	Strikes, penalty £50 and preference to unionists cancelled. Lockouts, penalty £1000.	None	Strikes £50, lockouts £1000, unless notice of intention given to Registrar and secret ballot taken in favor. In the case of public utilities, compulsory conference also must have proved abortive
<i>Special provisions for Conciliation</i>	Special Commissioner. 3 Conciliation Committees for colliery districts. Registered agreements	None	Compulsory Conference. Registered Agreements

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.	TASMANIA.	COMMONWEALTH.
The Factories Acts 1907, 1908, and 1910. Industrial Arbitration Act 1912	Industrial Arbitration Act 1912	Wages Boards Acts 1910 and 1911	Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1904-11.
Industrial Court. Wages Boards	Arbitration Court	Unlimited	Court of Conciliation and Arbitration.
Court constituted by Act of 1912. Wages Boards by the Governor-in-Council	Constituted by the Act	For the clothing trade, by the Act; for other trades, by a resolution of Parliament	Court constituted by the Act
To processes, trades, &c., specified in Act, and such others as may be authorised by Parliament	All industrial occupations	All trades, or groups or parts thereof	Industrial disputes extending beyond limits of any one State or in Federal Capital or Northern Territories
Court—matters or disputes submitted by Minister, Registrar, employers or employees, or by report of Wages Board. Wages Boards by petitions, &c.	Industrial disputes referred by President or by an Industrial Union or Association	By application of parties	Industrial disputes either certified by Registrar, submitted by organisation, referred by a State Industrial authority or by President after holding abortive Compulsory Conference
Court—President. Wages Board, appointed by Governor on nomination of Board, or failing nomination a Stipendiary Magistrate	A Judge of the Supreme Court	Any person elected by the Board. If none elected, appointment by the Governor-in-Council	President
Court, President only. Wages Board, not less than 5 nor more than 11 (inclusive of chairman)	Three, including president	Chairman, and not less than four nor more than ten	President only
By Governor on nomination of employers and employees respectively	Appointed by Governor, President directly, and one each on recommendation of unions of employers and workers respectively	By Governor-in-Council on nomination by employers and employees	President appointed by Governor-General from Justices of High Court
By Factories Department	By Arbitration Court on complaint of any party to the award or Registrar or an Industrial Inspector	By Factories Department	By proceedings instituted by Registrar, or by any organisation affected, or a member thereof
Until altered by Board or by order of Industrial Court	For period fixed by Court, not exceeding 3 years, or for 1 year and thenceforward from year to year until 30 days' notice given	Until altered by Board.	For period fixed by award not exceeding 5 years
Industrial Court	No appeal except against imprisonment or a fine exceeding £20	To Supreme Court	No appeal. Case may be stated by President for opinion of High Court
Yes	No suspension. Court has power to revise an award after the expiration of 12 months from its date	Yes	(No appeal)
No	No	No	Yes; ordinarily optional, but mandatory if in opinion of Court preference is necessary for maintenance of industrial peace or welfare of society
Penalty £500, or imprisonment 3 months	Employer or Industrial Union, £100; other cases, £10.	None	Penalty, £1000.
Compulsory Conference. Industrial Court. Registered agreements	Compulsory Conference. Registered agreements.	None	Compulsory Conference. Court may temporarily refer to Conciliation Committee, Registered agreements

The fundamental difference in principle between the wages board and the Arbitration Court systems is, of course, that the wages board, once established, itself takes the initiative, and immediately sets to work, without waiting for a dispute, to frame wages and conditions of employment for the trade under review, whereas under the Arbitration Court system a tribunal cannot itself initiate proceedings, but must wait until a dispute—which ordinarily means in practice a refusal by employer or trade union of the other's request—comes within its cognizance. This may be done by the court convening a compulsory conference of the parties to the dispute. Under the wages board system, moreover, each trade or industry has its own board, whereas a single arbitration court would ordinarily deal with all trades within a district. Another important difference lies in the nature of the tribunals, the wages board consisting of persons representing the employers and employees respectively, with a nominated or independent chairman, while the Arbitration Court consists of one member only—a judge of the Supreme or High Court—who may, however, be assisted by assessors. Again, it may be observed that under the Arbitration Court system, anything in the nature of a strike or lock-out is expressly forbidden under penalty, provision being made for conciliation in matters under dispute by means of conferences or (as in the case of New South Wales) reference to special committees, and by the registration of industrial agreements. No such provisions exist under the wages board system. It should be observed, however, that although the Arbitration Court attacks the problem at the other end, aiming primarily at preventing strikes, this has worked out, in practice, to the wages board solution of enforcing by law certain definite minimum conditions of employment. The points of difference noted above may be observed in the systems in force in Victoria and Tasmania, on the one hand, and in Western Australia and under the Commonwealth Act on the other. It will be seen, however, that in New South Wales, Queensland, and South Australia, combinations of the two systems have now been evolved.

Further information as to the systems in force in the several States may be found in the Commonwealth Year Book (Section XXVII., Industrial Unionism and Industrial Legislation), while much valuable information as to laws affecting strikes and lock-outs in force at the beginning of the year 1912, both in the British Dominions and foreign countries is given in the Memoranda on Strikes and Lock-outs prepared by the Labour Department of the Board of Trade. [Cd. 6081, London, Darling and Sons, 1912.]

SECTION XII.—INTERNATIONAL LABOUR STATISTICS.— THE NEED FOR CO-ORDINATION.

1. General.—The particulars given in this Section embody the most recent information available for various countries in regard to—(i.) Trade Unionism, (ii.) Unemployment, (iii.) Price-indexes, and (iv.) Industrial Disputes. As will appear from the following paragraphs, any comparisons which can be made between the various countries are subject to certain limitations, inasmuch as there is ordinarily a considerable lack of uniformity in the methods adopted for collection, and in the field covered by the returns. It is now becoming more widely recognised that in certain questions of this nature—such for example as variations in prices and unemployment—underlying causes and events in one country are reflected in other countries, and that these questions can be studied adequately only on an international basis. Hence it follows that a greater degree of co-ordination in these matters is necessary before any wholly satisfactory examination can be made as to industrial activity and economic conditions, either relative or absolute. In this connection the efforts of the International Unemployment Association (see page 74 hereinafter) and the proposals for an International Commission to investigate the question of prices and cost of living may be mentioned.

2. Trade Unions.—In the absence of any comprehensive definition applicable to all countries as to what constitutes a trade union, the principle has been followed, so far as possible, of including in the subjoined table all such associations of work-people as correspond to trade unions in the Australian meaning of the term. It should, however, be understood that the types of organisations included in the table differ considerably in various countries. Thus the Austrian unions include a large number of associations conducted primarily for educational purposes, while the German and Belgian unions comprise bodies organised in close connection with the Catholic Church, though performing trade union functions as well. During recent years a considerable impetus has been given to the trade union movement in Europe by the holding of international congresses and the establishment of a permanent International Secretariat at Berlin. Further information as to trade-unionism in certain European countries and as to the laws of association of these bodies may be found in the Fourth Abstract of Foreign Labour Statistics published by the Board of Trade, London (1911, Cd. 5415).

The following table shews the membership of trade unions in various countries for the year 1911. The number of trade unionists per 1000 inhabitants in each country is also shewn.

**Total Membership of Trade Unions and Number of Trade Unionists per 1000
Inhabitants in various Countries, 1911.**

Country.	Total Member- ship in thousands.	Number of Members per 1000 Inhabit- ants.	Country	Total Member- ship in thousands.	Number of Members per 1,000 Inhabit- ants.
	(000).			(000).	
Australia. ..	*433	97	Holland ..	169	28
Austria	496	17	Hungary ..	95	6
Belgium	93	12	Italy	710	20
Bosnia and Herzegovina	6	3	New Zealand	57	57
Bulgaria	†29	7	Norway ..	53	22
Canada	†133	18	Roumania ..	8	1
Croatia and Slavonia ..	8	3	Servia ..	8	3
Denmark	128	46	Spain ..	80	4
Finland	20	7	Sweden ..	116	21
France	1,064	27	Switzerland	128	34
Germany	3,792	58	Turkey ..	50	8
Great Britain and Ireland	3,010	66	United States	2,282	25
			Total ..	12,968	32

* In 1912.

† In 1910.

These figures shew that as regards *actual* numbers of trade unionists Germany comes first, followed in the order named by Great Britain, the United States, and France. As regards *relative* numbers (per 1000 inhabitants), however, Australia has by far the largest proportion, followed by Great Britain, Germany, and New Zealand (practically equal), Denmark, and Switzerland.

3. Unemployment.—While trade union unemployed percentages are collected in a number of countries, owing to the lack of uniformity in regard to methods of collection and presentation, the results cannot be *directly* used for the purpose of comparing the state of employment in different countries. Some of the statistical objections to such comparisons may be summarised as follows*:

(i.) The disproportionate manner in which the various trades are represented. For example, in some countries specially large representation is given to trades which are characterised by violent fluctuations in employment.

(ii.) In some countries the returns are, and in others they are not, confined to unions paying unemployment benefit.

(iii.) Where the returns are so confined, they are not free from the liability to understate the number unemployed, by the exclusion

* See "Fourth Abstract of Foreign Labour Statistics," Board of Trade, London (Cd. 5415), 1911.

of those who have either not qualified for, or who have run out of, benefit.

(iv.) The percentages of unemployment are materially affected by the age distribution of persons included.

Notwithstanding these objections to *direct* international comparisons of unemployment, it is stated in the report referred to above that "... the movements of each set of figures over a period of time furnish a fairly good indication of the fluctuation of employment in each country, any imperfections in the records being of a more or less constant character."

In order to shew the relative increase or decrease in unemployment from year to year in various countries the following table has been prepared. It must, however, be borne in mind that, for the reasons already indicated, direct comparisons as to actual percentages unemployed at any given time cannot be made between the various countries.

Percentage of Numbers of Trade Unionists Returned as Unemployed, 1906 to 1912.

(Results not comparable for various Countries. See above.)

Country.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
Australia ..	6.7	5.7	6.0	5.8	5.6	4.7	5.5
Belgium ..	1.8	2.0	5.9	3.4	2.0	1.9	1.8
Denmark ..	6.1	6.8	11.0	13.3	11.3	9.1	6.0
France ..	8.4	7.6	9.6	8.1	6.5	6.2	6.1
Germany* ..	1.1	1.6	2.9	2.8	1.9	1.9	2.0
Great Britain*	3.6	3.7	7.8	7.7	4.7	3.0	3.2
Holland ..	§	§	§	§	§	2.7	4.2
Norway ..	3.2	2.5	3.6	5.0	2.9	1.8	1.6
U.S.A., N. York	6.8	13.6	28.0	14.9	13.7	5.5	§
U.S.A. Massachusetts	§	§	12.1	5.6	5.5	5.4	4.5

* Returns relate solely to unions paying unemployed benefit. § Not available.

NOTE.—Although these percentages are not directly comparable (for reasons already indicated), as between the several countries, the variations are informative.

The above figures disclose the fact that there was a general similarity between the trend of employment in the various countries. During the last four or five years the percentages of unemployed have uniformly decreased, while in 1908-9, following on the financial crisis in America, unemployment was higher in all countries than during any other year in the period under review.

4. Variations in Prices.—Comparisons between the price index-numbers published in various countries are also subject to certain limitations, which were referred to in some detail in Report No. 1. published by the Labour and Industrial Branch of this Bureau*. The fol-

* See "Prices, Price-Indexes, and Cost of Living in Australia," by G. H. Knibbs, C.M.G., etc. December, 1912.

lowing table gives particulars of wholesale price index-numbers for various countries since the year 1906:—

Wholesale Prices-Index-Numbers, 1906 to March, 1913.

YEAR.	AUS- TRALIA.	GREAT BRITAIN.			FRANCE.		UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.		CANADA
		Board of Trade.	Econ- omist.	Sauer- beck.	Re- forme Econ- omique	Statis- tique Gener- ale.	Bureau of Labour	Brad- street.	
1906	948	919	937	962	927	..	947	955	942
1907	1,021	967	1,014	1,000	979	..	1,001	1,023	991
1908	1,115	940	897	912	890	..	950	952	949
1909	993	951	883	925	903	..	978	948	952
1910	1,003	994	947	975	951	..	1,017	1,059	983
1911	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1912	1,170	1,052	1,064	1,062	1,037	1,041	1,055	1,055	1,060
Jan.									
1913	} 1,112*	{ †	1,073	1,080	..	..	..	1,091	1,070
Feb.									
1913			1,065	1,076	..	..	..	..	..

* First Quarter. † Published annually.

NOTE.—The data do not admit of these index-numbers being referred to a common basic value. That is to say, information as to relative cost of living in any given year in the various countries is not available. For that reason the variations in each country are treated separately, and the value of 1000 has been taken for the year 1911 for each country.

The above table shews that in all the countries included there has been a considerable rise in prices during the period under review. For further information reference may be made to Report No. 1 (see above).

5. **Strikes and Lockouts (Statistics not Comparable).**—The statistics of trade disputes given in this paragraph are summarised from reports issued by Government Labour Bureaux, but there is considerable difference in the methods adopted for the collection of these statistics. On the Continent of Europe they embrace all disputes, irrespective of their extent, except in the case of Austria, where disputes affecting fewer than ten persons are disregarded. In Canada all disputes affecting less than six employees or lasting less than twenty-four hours are excluded. In Massachusetts strikes lasting less than one day are omitted. In Australia and the United Kingdom, however, the method has been adopted of excluding disputes involving fewer than ten persons, or lasting less than one day, unless their aggregate duration exceeds 100 working days. It has been found that the exclusion of such disputes does not materially affect the results shewing the total number of working days and the total amount of wages lost, while their inclusion would greatly increase the labour involved in the collection of the statistics. Similarly, there is a great diversity in the methods adopted in the various countries for determining the number of persons affected by a dispute. It is obvious that to the extent to which that diversity prevails the estimates of the aggregate amount of time lost will be affected. The different methods, both of collecting and

presenting the statistics of disputes, make it impossible to draw safe conclusions as to the frequency of strikes and lockouts in different countries. The fact most essential to any useful international comparison of statistics of trade disputes is the aggregate number of working days lost, but, unfortunately, on this point the information is very incomplete. The following table shews, however, the number of strikes and lockouts and the number of persons returned as being affected thereby in different countries from 1906 to 1912, inclusive. The collection of similar information for the Commonwealth was only begun as from the 1st January, 1913.

Industrial Disputes in various Countries, 1906 to 1912.

(NOTE.—For reasons indicated above, direct comparisons between the several Countries cannot be made.)

Country.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
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Number of Disputes.

Austria ..	1,133	1,112	756	609	676	728	*337
Belgium ..	212	224	108	123	110	162	223
Canada ..	138	146	66	68	81	98	148
France ..	1,309	1,275	1,073	1,025	1,502	1,487	†971
Germany ..	3,626	2,512	1,524	1,652	3,228	2,798	†2,824
Great Britain	486	601	399	436	531	903	821
Holland ..	181	154	135	180	147	217	276
Italy ..	1,649	2,268	1,674	1,071	1,109	1,107	817
U.S.A., N. York	§	§	146	179	276	187	†154
U.S.A., Massachusetts	213	236	98	183	242	222	§

Number of Workers Affected (,000 omitted).

Austria ..	222	191	88	80	75	128	*133
Belgium ..	49	61	17	15	27	57	84
Canada ..	§	§	26	18	20	29	40
France ..	438	198	99	167	281	171	†147
Germany ..	349	274	112	120	370	356	†481
Great Britain	158	101	224	170	385	962	1,437
Holland ..	19	15	7	6	4	21	21
Italy ..	382	581	324	189	196	253	115
U.S.A., N. York	§	§	19	106	200	76	†82
U.S.A., Massachusetts	27	28	23	22	27	17	§

* January to November, 1912. † Provisional Figures. ‡ January to September, 1912
§ Not available.

SECTION XIII.—REPORTS OF DEPARTMENTS AND BUREAUX IN AUSTRALIA.

(In this Section it is proposed to furnish particulars of Reports received each quarter from Departments and Bureaux in the Commonwealth specially affecting labour and industrial matters).

A.—NEW SOUTH WALES.

1. **New South Wales State Labour Bureau, Report of Director for Year ended 30th June, 1912.** (Sydney, Government Printer, 1913.) In this Report an outline is given of the work of the Bureau and the various phases of industrial activity covered under the following heads:—(a) Free registry office in Sydney with 43 branches; (b) the issue of railway and steamer fares on credit; (c) the provision on satisfactory guarantee of repayment, of rabbit-traps, tents, blankets, &c.; (d) an agricultural training farm for training city lads for farm life; (e) a pig, poultry, vegetable and flower farm for destitute men; (f) the provision of food to destitute families in return for work done by the male head of the family; (g) the collection and dissemination of information concerning labour conditions in all centres of population in the State.

As regards industrial conditions generally the first half of the financial year was good throughout the State, but the latter half was marked by severe drought over nearly all districts. Though the drought was confined to the five months, January to May, it did great damage; sheep died in numbers, and lambing was a failure in most districts. Building operations were exceptionally active, and yet the demand for houses continued with unabated vigour. On all hands the decrease of visible poverty was evidenced. As regards the free employment bureau, the number of registrations for the year was 2696, and the number of situations filled 3341. Special attention is given in the report to the "Dreadnought" scheme for the training of city lads for farm life, and the desirability of bringing out a certain number of lads regularly each week from Great Britain is emphasised. It is stated that legislation for the regulation and control of private registry offices is urgently needed.

2. **New South Wales Industrial Gazette, January, February and March, 1913.** (Sydney Government Printer, 1913.) These publications are the fifth, sixth and seventh numbers of the second volume of a monthly gazette (of which the first number was issued in July, 1912) designed for the purpose of supplying the public with reliable information as to the operation of the various Acts which in any way regulate the relations between employers and work-people. Each number of this gazette records operations under the Industrial Arbitration Act, 1912, including reports of legal cases, records of proceedings in the Court of Arbitration and before Industrial Magistrates and the Industrial Registrar, operations of the Industrial Commissioner, awards published, industrial agreements, and the constitution and dissolution of Industrial Boards. This matter is preceded by an introductory article dealing with matters of current interest. Another feature of the publication is the inclusion of monthly reports by the Director of the Labour Bureau on the condition of the labour market. Each number also contains one or more special articles.

3. **Royal Commission of Inquiry as to Food Supplies and Prices. Interim Report on the Supply and Distribution of Meat.** (Sydney, Government Printer.)
Do., do. **Interim Report on the Supply and Distribution of Fish.** (Sydney, Government Printer.)

4. **State Children Relief Board. Report of the Vice-President for the year ended 5th April, 1912.** (Sydney, Government Printer.)

B.—VICTORIA

1. **Friendly Societies. Report of Government Statist for year 1911.** (Melbourne, Government Printer.)

C.—SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

1. **Report of Chief Inspector of Factories for Year ending 31st December, 1911.** (Government Printer, 1912.) This Report deals with operations under the Factories Act, 1907 to 1910, the Lifts Regulation Act, 1908, and the Early Closing Act, 1911. At the end of the year 1911 there were on the registers of the Department 1757 factories, employing 19,589 persons, of whom 14,105 were males and 5484 females. The inspectional staff of the Department consisted of one chief inspector, one senior inspector, four male inspectors, two female inspectors, and two junior clerks.

Thirteen new wages boards were authorised for appointment during the 1911 Session of Parliament, making 56 boards in all, either appointed or authorised up to the end of October, 1912. Particulars are given in the Report of the position of the various wages boards and their determinations. Information as to the "average weekly earnings" of all employees in factories and of the rates of wages payable to all persons whose wages have been fixed by wages boards are given in an Appendix, as also is an epitome of the determinations of all wages boards in force. No explanation is, however, given as to the method by which "average earnings" were determined, and it appears that there is probably some confusion between average earnings and average wages.

The number of shops in the metropolitan district registered under the Early Closing Act 1911 was 3552, employing 13,230 persons. It is stated that one serious weakness in the measure is the provision allowing exempted shops in which non-exempt goods are sold to be kept open after the closing time for other shops in which similar goods are sold. Under the Lifts Regulation Act 237 lifts were registered.

D.—WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

1. **Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1902 and Trades Union Act 1902, Eleventh Annual Report.** (Perth, Government Printer, 1912.) This Report furnishes particulars up to the end of the year 1911, and in some cases up to the 30th June, 1912. The number of industrial unions of workers on the register (under the Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1902) at the end of 1911 was 147, compared with 125 in 1910, and of unions of employers was 46, the same number as in the preceding year. The number of unions registered under the Trades Union Act at the end of 1911 was only 4, a decrease of 2 compared with 1910. The total number of members of industrial and trade unions registered shewed a phenomenal increase, viz., from 21,328 in 1910 to 30,442 in 1911. There was also a great increase in the number of industrial unions (of workers) registered. The Report also deals with industrial disputes determined by the Court of Arbitration or the three Boards of Conciliation since 1901. Detailed lists of industrial agreements and of registered industrial unions (comprising particulars as to membership, income, expenditure and capital) are also given.

E.—TASMANIA.

1. **Chief Inspector of Factories, First Annual Report.** (Hobart, Government Printer, 1912.) This Report furnishes an instructive and lucid description of the working and scope of the Factories Act 1910 and the Wages Board Act 1910-11, from the 31st March, 1911 (the date on which the Acts came into operation), until the 30th June, 1912. A review of the operation of the Shops Closing Act 1911, which came into force on the 1st January, 1912, is also given. The question of the scope and limitations of the two former Acts is first dealt with, and it is pointed out that, although similar as to their provisions to corresponding Acts in other Australian States, the Tasmanian Acts are applicable to the whole State, and are limited neither to districts or areas proclaimed (as in New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia), nor to cities, towns and boroughs, with the power of extension to shires or parts thereof (as in Victoria).

The number of registered factories on the 30th June, 1913, was 839, employing in all 7841 hands, of whom 6241 were males and 1600 females. Particulars are given as to male and female employees classified by industries and age groups, and also in regard to average and maximum and minimum wages paid. The need for uniform conditions in the Australian States as to minimum age and wage of factory employees is emphasised.

Resolutions authorising the appointment of 19 Wages Boards were carried in both Houses of Parliament during the 1911-12 Session. The procedure under the Act for the appointment of a Board, and the powers, duties and functions of the members and the chairman, are explained. Eleven of the Boards had already issued determinations, each of which is dealt with in some detail in the Report. Reference is also made to the working of the Shops Closing Act, 1911, and to the White Phosphorous Matches Prohibition Act, 1911.

2. Hobart Savings Bank. Report for Half-year ended 28th February, 1913. (Hobart, Mercury.)

SECTION XIV.—LABOUR MATTERS ABROAD AND IMPERIAL AND FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

(In this Section it is intended to include brief reviews of the more important Reports specially affecting labour received each quarter from other countries.)

A.—UNITED KINGDOM.

1. Census of Production, Final Report on the first Census of Production of the United Kingdom (1907). Cd. 6320. (London, Darling and Son, 1912.) The final Report on the first Census of Production of the United Kingdom, taken in 1908 in respect of the calendar year 1907 under the Census of Production Act, 1906, has been issued by the Board of Trade. This investigation covers all forms of production except Agriculture and Fisheries. The returns collected relate to firms and companies employing an average of about 7,100,000 persons, of which about 500,000 were salaried persons (including principals) and about 100,000 outworkers. If the returns had been complete it appears that from $8\frac{1}{4}$ to $8\frac{1}{2}$ million persons would have been recorded as employed. The final results of the Census in summary form are as follow:—

United Kingdom.—Census of Production, 1907.

1. Gross Output.	2. Materials Used.	3. Work given out.	4. Net Output (excess of 1 over sum of 2&3)	5. Persons employed.	Net Output per Person.*	Horse-power of Engines.
£(000,000). 1,765	£(000,000). 1,028	£(000,000). 25	£(000,000). 712	(000). 6,985	£ 102	H.P. (000) 10,755

* Excluding outworkers.

The net output of the 1 to $1\frac{1}{4}$ million persons omitted is put down at £50,000,000, making a total output of £1,815,000,000. Taking all trades together, 93 per cent. of the persons included were wage-earners and 7 per cent. salaried persons (including principals). Excluding persons employed in mining and quarrying, 71.3 per cent. of the wage-earners were males and 28.7 per cent.

females, while 12.6 per cent. of the male and 24.8 per cent. of the female wage-earners were under 18 years of age. According to the latest Commonwealth Returns (1911), 73.8 per cent. of the employees in manufacturing industries were males and 26.2 females, shewing a somewhat larger proportion of females in the United Kingdom than in Australia.

The extremes of variation in the average net output per head of persons employed are represented by £19 in the flax-scutching trade and £354 in the spirit-compounding trade, the average being £102 per person. The several reasons for this variation are discussed at length in the General Report, which points to differences in the amounts of wages, capital expenditure, and sales expenses as among the chief causes.

The scope of this Census of Production and the field covered are very similar to those included in the annual manufacturing returns for the Commonwealth; the information elicited in regard to the mining industry was, however, more complete than that which is available from the Commonwealth returns. It is to be regretted that information as to amount of wages paid was not included in the Census.

2. Anti-Trust Legislation in the British Self-Governing Dominions, Report by Board of Trade, Cd. 6439. (London, Darling and Son.) This Report was prepared by the Board of Trade with a view to furnishing information as to the various legislative measures enacted in the self-governing Dominions "with the object of protecting their consumers from artificial high prices due to the manipulations of either the American or Home trusts or combines."

As regards the *Dominion of Canada*, it appears that there are two Acts in force, viz., the Federal Combines Investigation Act 1910 and the provincial New Brunswick Act (Cap. V., 1910), providing for the establishment of a Board of Public Utility Commissioners. The former Act provides for the appointment of boards to investigate "combines, monopolies, trusts and mergers." Six or more persons who are of opinion that a "combine" exists and that prices have been thereby enhanced or competition restricted to the detriment of consumers or producers, may make to a judge an application for an order directing an investigation. If a *prima facie* case is made out the investigation is directed and a Board appointed. When it appears that a combine exists, the Governor-in-Council may order the admission free of duty, or at a reduced rate of duty, of any article, and any person found guilty of restricting production or supply of any article or enhancing its price is liable to pecuniary penalties. The New Brunswick Act provides for the regulation of charges in regard to public utilities, which include the production, transmission, delivery or furnishing of heat, light, water or power to the public.

In *South Africa* the Post Office Administration, etc., Act 1911, prohibits the Governor-General from entering into any ocean mail contract with any person connected with a shipping combination deemed to be detrimental to the interests of the Union, while an Act in the Cape of Good Hope, entitled an "Act to prevent a monopoly in the meat trade" (No. 15 of 1907) provides that any contract in support of a combine, whose object is to secure control of the sale of meat, is illegal. This Act may or may not become operative at the option of the local authorities.

In *New Zealand* the Commercial Trusts Act, 1910, relates solely to transactions regarding goods enumerated in the schedule.* It prohibits rebates, etc., by one person to another on condition of the latter dealing exclusively, or not dealing at all, with certain persons, and makes it an offence for any person to conspire to create a complete or partial monopoly, if contrary to the public interest. The Act also prohibits the supply of goods at an unreasonably high price (i.e., a price which gives the seller "more than a fair and reasonable rate of commercial profit") when the price is controlled by a commercial trust, of which the seller or his principal is or has been a member or in obedience to which he acts. Every (present) member of a trust which offends against this Act is himself guilty of an offence, and the wilful abetting of an act which would in New Zealand constitute an offence under the Act, even if performed outside that country, is of itself also an offence.

* Agricultural implements, coal, meat, fish, flour, oatmeal and the other products or by-products of the milling of wheat or oats, petroleum or other mineral oil, sugar, and tobacco.

As regards *Australia*, the provision of Part II. of the Industries Preservation Act 1906-1910 are explained, but it is pointed out that, in view of certain decisions of the High Court, the precise application of its provisions is a matter of some doubt.

3. Board of Trade Labour Gazette, January 1913. (London, T. Fisher Unwin.) In addition to the usual matter and statistical tables, the January number of the Labour Gazette contains an interesting summary as to employment, wages, prices and disputes in 1912.

Employment in that year was seriously affected in March and April by the coal strike; it, however, shewed a quick recovery owing to expanding trade, and continued good in all the principal industries, especially in the second half of the year. Returns relating to about 850,000 members of Trade Unions, which pay unemployment benefit, shew that the average monthly percentage of unemployment was 3.2 in 1912, compared with 3.0 per cent. in the preceding year, 4.7 per cent. in 1910, and 7.7 per cent. in 1909.

The upward movement in wages, which was not very marked in 1911, continued during 1912. The result of all changes during the year was a net increase per week of £131,611. Of the total number affected, 1,712,242 received a net increase per week of £131,617, or about 1s. 6½d. per head per week, and 57 sustained an aggregate net decrease of £6 per week. In 1911 the net increase was £32,433, and in 1910 £14,335 per week, while in 1909 there was a net decrease of £69,120 per week. The net increase in the seventeen years, 1896 to 1912, was £506,241 per week.

The rise in wholesale prices continued at an accelerated rate in 1912, the index-number for that year being 1150, compared with 1093 in 1911 and 1000 in 1900. Retail prices of food also shewed a marked advance, the index-number for the year being 5.1 per cent. higher than in 1911, and 14.9 per cent. higher than in 1900. The increase in 1912 was the greatest in any year for which statistics are available (since 1895).

As regards trade disputes, the industrial unrest which characterised 1911 continued in 1912. The number of disputes causing a stoppage of work recorded as beginning during the year was 821, while the number of persons involved (1,437,032) and the aggregate duration in "men-working days" (40,346,400) were the highest ever recorded. About 11 per cent. of the total number of persons engaged in industrial occupations (exclusive of agricultural labourers) were involved in disputes in 1912, and the amount of working time lost by disputes at the works immediately affected would have been about 4 days per head if spread over the whole industrial population.

4. Changes in Rates of Wages and Hours of Labour in the United Kingdom in 1911, Board of Trade Annual Report. Cd. 6471. (London, Darling and Son.)

5. Profit-Sharing and Labour Copartnership in the United Kingdom, Board of Trade Report. Cd. 6496. (London, Darling and Son.)

6. Strikes and Lock-outs and Conciliation and Arbitration Boards in the United Kingdom in 1911, Board of Trade Report. Cd. 6472. (London, Darling and Son.)

7. The Co-operative Union Limited. The 44th Annual Co-operative Congress, 1912. (Manchester, Co-operative Union Limited.)

8. The Rise and Fall of Wages between 1896 and 1911. (London, Municipal Society.)

9. National Health Insurance. Medical Benefit under the German Insurance Legislation. Cd. 6581. (London, Darling and Son.) Report shewing the principal points of difference between the Insurance Legislation of Germany and that of the United Kingdom with regard to medical benefit, and to indicate the principal results obtained from an inquiry into the German system.

10. The Industrial Disputes Investigation Act of Canada, 1907. Report by Sir G. Askwith. Cd. 6603. (London, Darling and Son.)

11. **Summary of Accidents and Casualties on Railways in the United Kingdom** during the Three Months ending 30th June, 1912. Cd. 6474. (London, Darling and Son.)

12. **Building Societies. 17th Annual Report by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for 1911.** (London, Darling and Son.)

13. **Friendly Societies. Report of the Chief Registrar for the year ending 31st December, 1911.** (London, Darling and Son.)

B.—CANADA.

1. **Labour Organisation in Canada, Report on, 1911.** (Ottawa, Government Printing Bureau, 1912.) The Department of Labour has issued a special Report on this subject with a view to shewing the details of labour organisation in Canada. The Report is largely statistical, but includes a general statement as to methods of organisation. From the latter it appears that the development of trade unions in the United States and Canada is closely interwoven. There are 1741 "local" unions in Canada, of which 1531 are international in character. The total estimated membership of all trade unions in Canada is 133,132, which is small compared with the membership (433,224) of Australian unions.

2. **The Labour Gazette, December 1912, and January and February 1913.** (Ottawa, C. H. Parmelee, 1913.) The last number received of this monthly publication furnishes information as to industrial conditions in Canada for the month of January, 1913. The wholesale price index-number fell slightly during that month, but was still considerably higher than in the corresponding month of 1912. Detailed information is given as to retail prices, but no general cost of living or retail price index-number is presented. Other matters dealt with each month comprise trade disputes, industrial accidents, immigration, and proceedings under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act. The number of strikes and lockouts in Canada commencing during the year 1912 was 148, involving 40,511 employees, and resulting in a loss of over 1,099,000 working days. The January number contains an interesting review of labour conditions in Canada during 1912, while the February number has special articles on the Prevention of Lead Poisoning, the Report of the Dominion Commission on Statistics, and other matters.

3. **Statistics of Canada, Report of Departmental Commission.** (Ottawa, C. H. Parmelee, 1913.) A valuable Report has recently been issued by a Departmental Commission appointed to inquire into the scope, methods and reliability of official statistics in Canada. The Commission recommends the creation of a Central Statistical Office to co-ordinate and extend the statistics of Canada under a single comprehensive scheme. Each main branch of statistics is dealt with separately, and recommendations in regard thereto are made by the Commission. In order to facilitate the work of co-ordination and extension of statistics, the formation of an Inter-Departmental Statistical Committee, as a deliberative and advisory body, is recommended, and it is stated that committees of this kind now in existence in several European countries have done admirable work. As regards co-operation with, and between, the provinces, the establishment of a permanent conference to meet periodically is suggested. If carried into effect, the recommendations of the Commission should result in a great improvement in Canadian statistics. It is of interest to observe that whereas inter-State records of trade in Australia have recently been abolished, in Canada the Commission recommends that inter-Provincial records should be established, at first on a limited scale, but to be extended at a later stage.

4. **Old Age Pensions System for Canada, Memorandum issued by Parliamentary Committee.** (Ottawa, Government Printing Bureau, October 1912.) This publication forms part of a preliminary Report on the information collected by the Committee, and contains an interesting and valuable review of the systems established in the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, France, Germany, and other countries. Particulars are also given as to various annuity and pension schemes in force in Canada, and as to the Acts governing the payment of pensions and superannuation and retiring allowances by the Federal and Provincial Governments.

C.—NEW ZEALAND.

1. **Awards, Agreements and Decisions under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, Vol. XIII., Part 11.** Awards Nos. 2663 to 2718. (Wellington, Government Printer.)

2. **Journal of the Department of Labour. No. 240.** (Wellington, Government Printer.) State of Trade, Accidents, Labour Bureaux, Co-operative Works, Trade Unions, Legal Decisions.

3. **Report of Cost of Living Commission, 1912.** (Wellington, Government Printer.) Extract from the Labour Journal, October 1912.

D.—INDIA.

1. **Prices and Wages in India, 1912.** Twenty ninth Issue. (Calcutta, Government Printer.) Average annual retail prices of 10 kinds of grain and salt in 1873 and from 1837 to 1911, in 23 districts. Wholesale prices in various districts, 1897 to 1911. Average wages of Agricultural Labourers, Tradesmen, Postmen, Railwaymen, and employees in cotton mills, 1887 to 1911.

E.—UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

1. **Retail Prices 1890 to June 1912, Federal Department of Commerce and Labour, Part I., Nos. 1 and 2.** (Washington, Government Printing Office, 1912.) These Reports mark the beginning of a new series of Bulletins published by the Department of Commerce and Labour, the publication of the Annual and Special Reports, and of bi-monthly Bulletins having been discontinued. The new Bulletins will be published at irregular intervals, and each number will contain matter devoted to one of a series of general subjects. The Report presents for each of 39 of the most important industrial cities in the United States the retail prices of the principal articles of food, the weight of principal brands of bakers' bread, the retail prices of anthracite and bituminous coal, and the net price of gas for household use. Weighted index-numbers are given only for the 15 articles of food which cover approximately two-thirds of the total expenditure on food by the average working-man's family. The index-number for the first six months of the year 1912 was 1522, compared with 1430 in 1911 and 1441 in 1910, the average prices for the ten years 1890 to 1899 being taken as base (= 1000). Prices in the first six months of 1912 were, therefore, over 50 per cent. higher than the average for the base period. The value of the Report would have been enhanced by the inclusion of particulars as to variations in house rent, and by the presentation of a general cost of living index-number covering the whole of the data.

2. **State Free Employment Offices, Massachusetts, Sixth Annual Report, 1912.** (Boston, State Printers, 1913.) In Massachusetts there are three State Free Employment Offices established under a special Act of 1906, and under the control of the director of the bureau of statistics. These offices are located respectively at Boston, Springfield, and Fall River. The number of positions filled through these offices has increased from 15,510 in 1907 to 26,587 in 1912. The total cost of maintenance during the year 1912 was approximately £4800. Special attention is drawn in the Report to the numerous opportunities for utilising the State Free Employment Offices as agencies, not only for investigating the larger aspects of the problem of unemployment, but also for accumulating statistical information which might be used to advantage in the study of other social phenomena.

3. **Labour Bulletin, State of New York, No. 53, December 1912.** (Albany, J. B. Lyon Co., 1913.) This Bulletin is published quarterly. The percentage of unemployed in the State of New York in September, 1912, according to trade union returns, was 7.1, compared with 10.8 at the corresponding time in the preceding year. The figures include, however, persons out of work through labour disputes. Particulars are given, compiled from returns made by Trade Unions, of the average daily earnings, and also the average total earnings (allowing for unemployment) of male members of labour organisations in the third quarter of each year from 1905 to 1912, inclusive. The average daily earnings for all groups increased from 11s. 10d. in 1905 to 13s. 1d. in 1912,

while, allowing for relative unemployment, there was no change in the average quarterly earnings (£45) in these two years. The Bulletin deals also with labour organisations, strikes and lockouts, court decisions, building operations, prosecutions, accidents in factories, and industrial diseases.

4. **Bureau of Labour, New Hampshire, Ninth Biennial Report** (Concord, N.H. 1912.) The first part of this Report furnishes classified particulars of rates of wages and hours of labour for different occupations in the various industrial centres of the State of New Hampshire. The second part is devoted mainly to statistics of manufacturing industries, opportunities for industries, workmen's compensation, statistics, and industrial accidents. At the end of the Report a directory is given of labour unions and manufacturing establishments.

5. **Bureau of Labour, Minnesota, 13th Biennial Report, 1911.** This Report is divided into eight parts, dealing respectively with workmen's compensation, industrial accidents and accident prevention, occupational disease and industrial hygiene, factory inspection and child labour, special investigations, free employment bureau, mine inspection and labour organisations. The first part of the Report reviews the laws which have been passed in the United States in regard to workmen's compensation, and deals with recent decisions of the courts affecting the same. The report relating to the three offices of the Employment Bureau shews that during the biennial period 1911-12 (twenty-three months) 99,302 positions were filled, at an average cost of about 10d. per position.

6. **Supply of Farm Labour in U.S.A.** (Washington, Government Printing Office.)

7. **Hawaii. First Report of the Board of Immigration, Labour and Statistics, 1911-1912.** (Honolulu, Star Bulletin Print.)

8. **New York. Annual Report of Department of Labour, 1911.** (Albany, J. B. Lyon Co.) Rise of the Modern Labour Movement. History of the New York Typographical Union.

9. **Wisconsin. Bulletin of the Industrial Commission.** Vol. I., No. 6; Vol. II., Nos. 1-3. December, 1912. January, 1913. (Wisconsin, Issued by the Commission.)

10. **Massachusetts. Report of the Commission on Compensation for Industrial Accidents, 1912.** (Boston, Wright and Potter Printing Co.)

11. **International Association of Bureaux of Labour.** Proceedings of the Twenty-eighth Annual Convention, 1912. (Washington.)

12. **Americah Statistical Association, December 1912.** (Boston.) Use of averages in expressing wages and hours.

13. **Massachusetts. Fourth Annual Report on Labour Organisations, 1911.** (Boston, Wright and Potter Printing Co.)

F.—FRANCE.

1. **Bulletin of the Labour Department, Nov. and Dec., 1912, and Jan., 1913.** (Paris, Berger-Levrault.)

In addition to the usual general statistics and reports on disputes, unemployment and other industrial matters, a special article on Savings Banks is published in the November number of this Bulletin. This article includes a classified description of the various kinds of Savings Banks in different countries, together with statistics of deposits therein. In the December number a review is furnished of the Report of the Permanent Commission of the Higher Council of Labour of France on the legislation in different parts of the world (including Australia) affecting employees in commerce and in the production of food. The article refers in detail to the Minimum Age, Hours of Labour, and Early Closing. The January number includes a summary in tabular form of the laws in 23 various countries relating to the age limit and hours of labour of children, and the hours of labour and rest time for women.

2. **Bulletin of General Statistics, January 1913, Vol. II., Part II.** (Paris, F. Alcan.) Unemployment and Strikes and Lockouts in different countries, Monthly Wholesale Price Index, Numbers and Wholesale Prices of 23 commodities, Retail Prices of 14 commodities, Friendly and Co-operative Societies;

Agricultural Wages and Hours of Labour, 1910 (6 classes of workers in 87 districts); Prices, Production and Consumption of certain articles of Merchandise.

3. **Statistics of Strikes and Conciliation and Arbitration in 1910.** (Paris, Government Printer.)

4. **Statistical Annual of the City of Paris, 1910, Vol. 31.** (Paris, Masson and Co.) Wholesale Prices of Meat, Fish, Fruit, Vegetables, Butter, Eggs, etc.; Retail Price of Bread; Savings Banks, Employment Bureaux, 1910.

5. **Journal of the Statistical Society of Paris, December, 1912, and January, February, 1913.** (Paris, Berger-Levrault.) Inquiry into the Economic Conditions of Industrial Workers in Finland.

6. **Quarterly Journal of the International Association on Unemployment. Vol. II. No. 3, July to Sept., 1912.** (Paris, Published by the Association.) This number contains special articles on "Unemployment in Relation to Migration and Agricultural Employment Bureaux." The volume concludes with a Bibliography of all recent publications referring to unemployment, and a general report on the work of the International Association on Unemployment.

The Association was founded in 1910, and now has sixteen national Sections in different parts of the world. The objects aimed at by this Institution are as follow:—(i.) To co-ordinate all the efforts made in different countries to combat unemployment; (ii.) to organise a permanent international office for the purpose of collecting and classifying all information on the subject of unemployment; (iii.) to hold periodical international meetings; (iv.) to organise special studies on the subject of unemployment; (v.) to publish literature on the same subject; (vi.) to negotiate with private institutions or public authorities with a view to advancing legislation and obtaining statistics on unemployment.

The Association is supported by voluntary contributions from 21 Governments or national official bodies, 27 States, Provinces or Departments, 121 towns or local official bodies, 26 unemployment funds and bureaux, 15 workmen's insurance funds, 110 associations or other institutions, and 514 individual members. It is announced that the first General Meeting will be held at Ghent, in Belgium, on the 3rd to 6th of September, 1913. The chief subjects which will be discussed thereat are:—(a) Employment Bureaux; (b) the Part played by Public Bodies in the Prevention of Unemployment; (c) Insurance against Unemployment; (d) Migration; (e) Bibliography of Unemployment; (f) Statistics.

G.—GERMANY.

1. **Journal of the Labour Department, December, 1912; January and February, 1913.** (Berlin, C. Heymann.) The monthly reports on Labour and Industrial matters in Germany are given, while a supplement is attached to the December number furnishing a tabulated review of European legislation on Workmen's Insurance against Sickness, Accidents, Invalidity, and Old Age.

2. **Industrial Agreements in 1911. Supplement to the Journal of the Labour Department.** (Berlin, C. Heymann.)

3. **Quarterly Journal of Statistics of the German Empire. Part IV., 1912.** (Berlin, Puttkammer and Mühlbrecht.) Prices of cattle in 10 cities, 1908 to 1912. Wholesale and Retail Price of 8 commodities in 3 cities, 1902-11. Industrial Disputes during the third Quarter of 1912.

4. **The Central Statistical News of Germany, December, 1912, and January and February, 1913.** (Leipzig, B. G. Teubner.)

5. **Social Culture, December, 1912; January and February, 1913.** M. Gladbach, Volksvereinsverslag.)

6. **Insurance Journal, January, 1913.** (Berlin, E. S. Mittler and Son.) The remodelling of Guild Pension Funds to meet the requirements of the Insurance Law for Employees. The latest Austrian Proposal for Insurance Law.

7. **Monthly Journal of Workmen's Insurance, January, 1912.** (Berlin, Behrend and Co.)

8. *Journal of the Statistical Bureau of Bavaria, No. 1, 1913.* (Munich, J. Lindau.) Sickness Insurance in Bavaria, 1911. Industrial Employment Bureaux, 1909 to 1911.

9. *Journal of the Statistical Bureau of the Grand Duchy of Hesse, September to December, 1912.* (Darmstadt, E. Roether.) Industrial Employment Bureaux in 1911. Monthly prices of 23 commodities in 18 cities, with average. Report of Employment Bureaux for second and third Quarters of 1912. Industrial Disputes in 1911.

10. *Journal of the Statistical Bureau of Saxony, Part II, 1912.* (Dresden, B. G. Teubner.) Private Employment Bureaux, 1911. Savings Banks, 1904 to 1910.

H.—AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

1. *Employment Bureaux in Austria in 1911.* (Vienna, A. Holder.) Number of Bureaux. Applications for employment and vacancies filled.

2. *Social Review (Journal of the Austrian Labour Department), November, December, 1912; January, 1913.* (Vienna, A. Hölder.) Industrial Disputes in October and November, 1912. Monthly report on the Work of the Employment Bureaux. Review of Social Laws and Conditions. Work of Employment Bureaux in 1911.

I.—ITALY.

1. *Statistical Annual of the City of Florence, 1911.* (Florence, A. C. Venturi.) General Statistics. Prices of Live Stock, 1902-1911. Wholesale Prices of 45 articles in 1911. Retail Prices of 80 articles in 1911. Savings Banks, Trades Unions, and Industrial Disputes in 1911.

2. *Monthly Statistical Bulletin of the City of Milan, October, November, and December, 1912.* (Milan, Stucchi, Ceretti and Co.) General statistics. Monthly prices of 50 commodities.

3. *Monthly Statistical and Topographical Bulletin of the City of Naples, June, 1912.* (Naples, F. Giannini and Sons.) An illustrated description of Naples, with General Statistics, including Prices of 90 Commodities in June, 1912.

4. *Monthly Bulletin of the City of Venice, November and December, 1913.* (Venice, C. Ferrari.) General Statistics, including Monthly Retail Prices of 28 kinds of Meat, 29 other Commodities and 47 kinds of Fish.

J.—BELGIUM.

1. *Journal of the Labour Department, Nos. 21 to 24, 1912; Nos. 1 to 3, 1913.* (Brussels, E. Daem.) Unemployment in January, 1913. Industrial Conditions. Retail Prices (14 commodities in 17 towns). Factory Inspection. Employment Bureaux and Labour Legislation, etc.

K.—HOLLAND.

1. *Monthly Journal of the Central Bureau of Statistics, November, December, 1912; January, 1913.* (La Hague, Gebr. Belinfante.) Strikes and Lockouts. Unemployment. Operations of Employment Bureaux. Reports on General Industrial Matters.

2. *Savings Banks Statistics 1909-1910.* (La Hague, Gebr. Belinfante.)

L.—DENMARK.

1. *Report of the Inspector of Unemployment Funds, 1st April, 1911, to 31st March, 1912.* (Copenhagen, H. Jensen.)

2. *Statistical Annual of Denmark, 1912.* (Copenhagen, H. H. Thiele.) Official Prices of 11 Commodities, 1877 to 1911. Retail Prices of 39 Articles, 1911 and 1912. Savings Banks, 1908-11. Old-age Pensions, 1910-11. Unemployment Funds, 1907-11. Unemployment, 1910-11. Copenhagen Employment Bureau, 1904-11. Industrial Disputes, 1897 to 1911. Average Wages of 33 Classes of Workmen in 1906. Trade Unions in 1911.

M.—NORWAY.

1. **Statistics of Savings Banks, 1911.** (Christiania, H. Aschehoug and Co.)
2. **Census of Factories and Workmen, 1910.** (Christiania, H. Aschehoug and Co.)
3. **Statistical Annual of Norway, 1912.** (Christiania, H. Aschehoug and Co.) General Statistics. Wages of 128 Descriptions of Workers, 1895, 1900, 1905, and 1910. Unemployment in 1910 and 1911. Employment Bureaux in 1911. Industrial Disputes, 1903 to 1911. State Accident Insurance, 1902 to 1909.

N.—SWEDEN.

1. **Official Statistics of Sweden, 1913.** (Stockholm, P. A. Norstedt and Söner.) General Statistics. Prices of Cereals, 1893 to 1912. Agricultural Wages, 1866 to 1911. Accidents, 1909. Industrial Disputes, 1906 to 1911. Labour Bureaux, 1908 to 1911. Accident Insurance, 1908 to 1911.
2. **Report of the Labour Bureau of Stockholm, 1910.** (Stockholm, K. L. Beckman.) A comprehensive Report on the Work of the Municipal Labour Bureau.
3. **Economic Journal, November, December, 1912; January, February, 1913.** (Upsala and Stockholm, Almqvist and Wiksell.) Deliberations of the Committee on Old-Age Insurance. Fixing the Prices of Commodities. The Profits of Monopolies, with reference to Wholesale and Retail Prices.

O.—SWITZERLAND.

1. **Statistics of Swiss Factories, 1911.** (Berne, A. B. Benteli.) Hours of Labour.
2. **The Question of the Agricultural Worker in Switzerland, Part III.** (Berne, K. J. Wyss.)

P.—RUSSIA.

1. **Weekly Bulletin of the St. Petersburg Bureau of Statistics, Nos. 1-5, 1913.** (St. Petersburg.) General Statistics. Weekly Wholesale Prices of 66 Articles. Operations of the Municipal Employment Bureau.
2. **Monthly Bulletin of the St. Petersburg Bureau of Statistics, No. 5, 1913.** (St. Petersburg.) A resumé of the weekly publication by the same Bureau giving monthly statistics and averages.
3. **Weekly Bulletin of the Moscow Bureau of Municipal Statistics, Nos. 37-47, 1912.** (Moscow.) General Statistics. Weekly Prices of 24 Commodities. Operations of the Employment Bureau.
4. **Summary of the Statistics of the City of Moscow, 1911.** (Moscow.)

Q.—ROUMANIA.

1. **Commercial Monitor of Roumania, February, 1913.** (Bucharest.) General Commercial Statistics, including Prices of Cereals.

R.—ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

1. **Official Annual of the Argentine Republic.** (Buenos Aires, Centenario.) Conditions of Life and Labour in the Argentine Republic. Rate of Wages in various Districts in the First and Third Quarters of 1911. Prices of 22 Commodities in 8 Districts during the First and Second Quarters of 1911, with General Average. Number of Industries and Employees.

S.—JAPAN.

1. **Ninth Annual Statistics of the City of Tokio, 1912.** (Tokio, Statistical Department of the Tokio Municipal Office.) General Statistics. Co-operative Associations. Industrial Associations. Average Wholesale Prices of 53 Commodities, 1910. Hours of Labour and Wages in Factories. Wages of 43 Occupations, 1901 to 1910.